

outta control

JAN. '81 NO.11

Spence

News & Views of the Belfast Anarchist Collective

OUTTA CONTROL... of the state, bosses, patriarchy, schooling, churches.... As Anarchists we oppose the authority and exploitation of this society, and advocate one of Free Association and Self-Management. This paper comes out every 3-4 weeks and we welcome contributions, criticisms etc.

PRISONERS' STRUGGLE CONTINUES

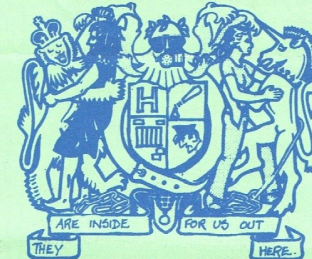
During December, the hunger strike for political status intensified, with more prisoners joining in and the original seven reaching a critical condition.

On December 1st, 3 women from the 28 on protest in Armagh began a hunger strike, not simply in solidarity with the 7 men in Long Kesh, but because of the logic of their own resistance. In their statement, they said, "For four years we have been refusing to work and conform to Britain's criminalisation policy. Therefore we lost all privileges, and were locked up 23 hours a day. Now for the past 10 months we have had our endurance stretched to what we would have thought of before as being impossible. However, comradeship, and your unfailing support have been gifts to keep us sane."

Then on December 12th, 6 U.D.A. loyalist prisoners started a hunger strike calling for segregation from republicans, and political status. This lasted only 5 days when churchmen promised to take their case up. The prisoners threatened to resume the strike if the government refused to consider their demands. When the N.I.O. 'solved' the republican strike, they dropped any pretence of considering the loyalist case, so the ball is now back in their court.

On December 15th, 23 more republicans joined the hunger strike in Long Kesh, because of N.I.O. duplicity. The previous day, the N.I.O. sent a senior civil servant in to read from a prepared commons document, stating the governments position. The 7 men refused to have this done individually, and met in the canteen. When their spokesperson, Brendan Hughes, asked a few questions, the civil servant refused to answer. On December 16th, another 7 joined the strike.

December 18th. was a day of great confusion. The 7 hunger strikers called off their strike when Atkins offered them considerable concessions but which didn't meet the demands of no uniform and no penal work. The proposals for work were sufficiently vague to allow for a certain optimism, but the prisoners were still expected to wear prison issue clothing for a quarter of the time. In a statement issued on the 17th, the prisoners said "...these proposals meet the requirements of our five basic demands" but the previous day had warned "that the failure of the British government to act in a responsible manner towards ending the conditions which forced us onto a hunger strike, will....lead to inevitable and continual strife within the H-blocks."



On the 19th, the women in Armagh came off their strike, and the 30 other republicans did likewise.

WHAT NOW?

In the 2 weeks since the ending of the strikes, there has been both a sense of relief that no-one died, and the almost inevitable street confrontations were avoided, mixed with a wariness about the British governments intentions to fulfil their proposals.

Accounts from inside Long Kesh claim that those coming off the blanket protest were placed in clean cells with the old prison uniforms provided. These were thrown out and the blanket protest begun again. There are even rumours of another hunger strike starting again.

Only time will answer the following questions - will the N.I.O. implement their reforms; will the prisoners see them as enough; will a renewed hunger strike get the same support, and will it be of a different nature; will the loyalists also restart their hunger strike?

An important point is that any gains won by the republicans will benefit the whole prison population. The proposals are fairly vague but include more association, more scope for education (including self study) up to 20 hours a week; uniform only to be worn 1/4 of the time; work to be based on the individuals needs as well as the prisons. The practical results have yet to be seen.

PRISON POTENTIAL

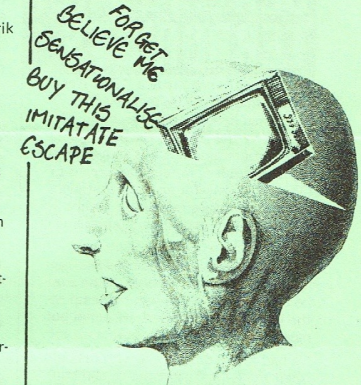
Local word has it that the southern government intends to build a new maximum security prison on the island of Owey, a mile offshore from the Rosses in Donegal. Over the past month, officials from the southern department of justice have visited the island twice, refusing to give their reasons for the visits. People in the area say that they believe that a survey is being carried out to determine the suitability of the island for a maximum security prison - almost certainly for prisoners convicted of political offences.

LEGAL DRUGS

As predicted in D.C. Ulster Television can continue to broadcast for the next 10 years until the next review of their licence.

This frigid little company, along with all the other tight-fisted commercial stations around Britain will continue to feed us their shit, designed to maintain the status quo and line the pockets of the chosen few.

And in the latest bid to abolish the on/off switches we will soon be presented with breakfast-time TV shows.



RUC ESCAPE!

The first ever Police Authority tribunal on torture in N.I. got off the ground last month. James Rafferty alleged that in Gough Barracks between the 11th and 13th Nov. '76 he was punched, slapped, had his hair pulled and forced to do exhausting exercises. A doctor confirmed that the extensive bruising could not have been self-inflicted. And a member of the RUC, then a chief inspector, who had conducted an internal RUC enquiry, had been able to pin-point certain RUC interrogators as responsible. The DPP had received his file and the doctors report, but after 3 years still had given no direction to prosecute.

All ingredients were available for an embarrassing conclusion for the RUC.... so on the second day when the RUC barrister asked Rafferty about his republican involvement and he reserved his right to refuse to answer, the RUC barrister walked out of the room. The chairperson continued with the tribunal and issued subpoenas for 29 RUC members to attend the tribunal. But the RUC put their case to the High Court and finally it squashed the subpoenas. Next day the tribunal had no option but to end, as there were no more witnesses. What its conclusions will be, and what effect they will have, time will tell. But the RUC can always claim that it was not impartial!



BEATING THE TERRORISTS

Peter Taylor once made a "This Week" programme on the Bennett Report, which had investigated the claims of torture by the RUC in Castlereagh. That programme was not shown on the night scheduled. In fact the screens of ITV were blank for an hour that night as the technicians refused to accept the censorship and show a replacement programme.

With much research already done Taylor began writing his book. As he admits towards the end it was made up of the information Bennett collected but never published.

He had many difficulties with his publishers Penguin. The evidence and conclusions not only prove what most people already know ie: that there was a systematic application of torture techniques to extract 'confessions'.

The introduction in the book is presumably the result of Penguin disquiet towards these revelations. It asserts there was no SYSTEMATIC torture; that a few RUC got carried away; and after all they were under intense pressure (being shot at etc). If Penguin hoped this would compensate for the rest of the book they were mistaken.

When the book was launched in Belfast, Taylor was made by Penguin to play the same game for radio and TV interviews. I am giving Taylor the benefit of the doubt here. He either thought these sacrifices were necessary and worth it to get the book published or he does not realise that he has contradicted 99% of the evidence of the book.

Taylor first explains the development of a two pronged policy to defeat the IRA and other opposition to British rule here—"criminalisation" and 'primacy of police'.

'Criminalisation' was the attempt to

replace the internationally embarrassing internment with a form of judicial trial. The Diplock Commission's recommendations of a juryless court, the admission of 'confession' as evidence, and the reversal of the onus of proof of torture were implemented and became "due process of law".

The "primacy of the police" was to help portray the political conflict here as a problem simply of "law and order". The R.U.C. established three interrogation centres—Gough in Armagh, Strand in Derry and most notoriously Castle-reagh in Belfast. They also increased their number of patrols, surveillance and armaments. Four new regional crime squads were established. Their role was to be as flexible as the IRAs Active Service Units, and to carry out interrogations.

The new policies had new people at the top. The GOC was House, the Chief Constable was Newman, and the Secretary of State a certain Roy Mason.

In the new legislation which covered the Diplock Courts, Section 6 allowed for the admissibility of 'confessions'. When it was challenged in May 77 Lord Justice McGonigle interpreted the Act in a judgment which became known as the 'torturers charter'—inhuman treatment had to cause SEVERE suffering, torture was an AGGRAVATED form of inhuman treatment, and degrading conduct had to GROSSLY humiliate! Incidentally a Directive from the Chief Constable in July 76 had stated that the judges rules on questioning of suspects, referred only to interviews and not interrogations!

So the interrogators zealously set about their work. May/June '77 and Feb/March 78 were the two highest periods for alleged assault. By no coincidence the period of the Amnesty International mission to enquire into torture and their final report 7 months later were the 2 periods of lowest allegations. On the occasion of the Bennett Report the RUC also played a low profile.

There is methodical coverage of many cases—of those who were convicted despite evidence of torture (Judge Rowland had the worst record) and of those who were released because of this evidence at the trial (there were in fact many who couldn't be brought to trial because of the obvious degree of the beatings).

To release someone whose defence was that s/he was beaten implies that many RUC interrogators could have been charged. But the judges kept their jobs by taking up a recurring theme—there was no torture. But the confession was 'induced' and so excluded as evidence.

If the evidence of beating was overwhelming then a new line was taken. When Patrick Fullerton was released without charge from Castlereagh in July 77 he took the RUC to court for assault. The magistrate McLaughlin, had to admit that there was assault but he did not know by whom, because of the large number of interrogators involved. Five detectives walked free! In fact not one member of the RUC has ever been convicted for assault.

The most serious incident was the death of Brian Maguire, a shop steward from Andersonstown. The RUC alleged that he committed suicide but

the common practise of 'throttling' suspects is well known in Northern Ireland., and well documented in the book. As Brian's mother said ... "I think they (RUC) went a bit too far with him".

One of the main mistakes of the RUC was to ignore complaints from police surgeons that no explanation was forthcoming as to the injured condition of the many people they received for examination after interrogation. Dr. Elliot operated from Gough barracks, and Dr. Irwin from Townhall Street in Belfast who received suspects from Castlereagh.

Taylor methodically covers the cases they came across and explains the doctors' frustrations at being ignored. The Police Authority also took up several cases but even they were given the run around by the C.C. Newman. Just before the British governments Bennett Report was due for publication Dr Irwin agreed to an interview with Mary Holland on ITV's 'Weekend World'. He feared the Bennett Report would not be extensive enough nor give any context. But immediately a smear campaign against him began. Whitehall leaked a story to the Daily Telegraph alleging that Irwin had a grudge against the RUC because they had failed to catch the man who had raped his wife in '76. The 'dirty tricks' tactic failed and even rebounded on Whitehall.

The peak of tortures have not been repeated, but the policies which lead to them, and the practice, continues. Dr Irwin and Dr Elliot left their jobs and more cooperative doctors replaced them.

An interesting postscript is one detectives admission to Taylor. He keeps all his interview notes in case there were ever to be, at some distant date, a war crimes tribunal.



Anyone who begins the series "Ireland: a Television History" with the statement about "telling the truth about Ireland" is immediately suspect!

Kee could have, at least, said the truth as he saw it. There are different ways of looking at history. We are told of the exploits of kings, the queens and the leaders and rarely a mention of the "common" people's continual struggle to survive and challenge their oppressors.

And by opening the series in the sensationalist way by saying that all the Irish welcomed the Queen's Jubilee visit and then SUDDENLY in Easter 1916 there was an insurrection against the British must be taking those pro-Brit school history books too far. What about Maud Gonne, James Connolly, Jim Larkin and the thousands of others during that period who were continually struggling to boot the Brits out?

SINCE THE MILITARY COUP IN TURKEY, ON SEPTEMBER 3RD MUCH APPLAUSED BY THE BRITISH MEDIA, 30,000 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ARRESTED FOR BEING "POLITICAL EXTREMISTS". IT SEEMS THAT BRITAIN'S PAPER OWNERS WOULD LIKE SOME THING LIKE THAT HERE AND THE SUNDAY NEWS WOULD LIKE US TO GO THERE FOR OUR HOLS!

SIDELINES..... "FUCKING" OBSCENE..... Both Rebel and Socialist Challenge refused to print the word "f*****" when reprinting lyrics from John Lennon's "Working class hero". ..If only it were true..... The Sex Pistols classic, "Anarchy in the U.K." has topped the alternative chart compiled by listeners to the John Peel radio programme, for the third year running.

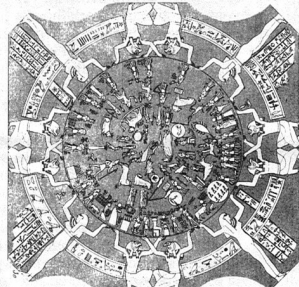
ABC OF ANARCHY

HIERARCHY IS THE ORGANISATION OF SOCIETY FROM THE TOP DOWN; THE PRIVILEGED GROUP DECIDING AND ENFORCING WHAT THE REST OF US DO. ONLY ANARCHISTS OPPOSE SUCH A SYSTEM IN THEIR PRACTICE AND GOALS - NO GOVERNMENTS, NO CENTRAL GOV., PTIEES ETC. DECISIONS SHOULD BE MADE BY THOSE CONCERNED IE. NEIGHBOURS IN AN AREA, WOMEN ON ABORTION, WORKERS IN A FACTORY ETC.

THE DOLE

The dole queues are getting bigger and bigger.....many more women, kids straight from school, people who have known nothing else, and people just now being made redundant...things are bad indeed when those considered Protestant now line up once a week (or once a fortnight) with their 'Catholic' counterparts. The dole is a lot of things to a lot of people but one thing it could be is a sizeable handout for just your signature's work... if seen from this angle it doesn't have the trappings of guilt, the scroungers-status that some would like us to feel (to force us off the dole).

The true aspect is a weekly handout, a compensation for having to live amidst a system run by clever fools, where only



The new social security code, used to determine a claimant's rates.

SOFT COPS

Since Thursday 9th October, a course "The Community and Crime" has been running in the extra mural department of Queens University. It is jointly organised by the Probation Service and NIACRO. (Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders).

Normally I wouldn't pay much attention to a course for middle class do gooders (the last evening ends with a wine and cheese party) but I happened to hear the plug for the class on Radio Ulster. Apart from members of the Judiciary and the Probation Service, we were told, the list of guest speakers would include 'articulate ex prisoners'.

The phrase 'articulate ex prisoners' is an unconscious revelation of the professional social workers view of their clients. They seem to be saying and passing on the prejudice to their next generation of recruits, that people in conflict with the law are monosyllabic social inadequates who have nobody to blame but themselves for their problems. Such a Victorian view of wrongdoers is of course a load of crap. Being an ex prisoner myself I know that most non political inmates become expropriators as a response to harsh social conditions which condemn them to a soul destroying existence on the dole. So I went along to the initial lecture to see the middle class indoctrination process at first hand.

While I had known that the course was ostensibly designed for those interested in voluntary social work I felt altruism wouldn't be the only motive that would

the interests of the possessed are protected...the dole, though doesn't conjure up such happy thoughts in most heads—it's a soul destroying experience for many, laden with years of guilt trips about sponging. It would appear that even self respect is lost if we are not working 5, 6 or 7 days a week for some institution or employer that cares only what your time can create for them. The dole tries to strip us of our dignity, our stature as human beings. Last week in Shaftesbury Square in Belfast a middle aged man was told off for "getting his signing on card grubby".....every week rain or snow we are made to stand outside and wait until the last second before we get the privilege to queue up inside at our box...no prams inside the building...please keep your children under strict control reads the supervisors sign, speaking volumes about where they are at! The dole is the STATE at work, an inhuman, cold, bureaucratic network that is used to frighten people out of any workplace militancy...the more strike the more unemployment' runs the current lie (and suitably dulled people are queueing to join even the RUC, UDR and prison service rather than go on the bru.) And new rules and regulations this week make SS even more offensive to those who rely solely on their handouts...

At a time when police pay has risen over 55% in under a year and a half, the dole is to be no longer index linked to the cost of living which could make next year's increase as low as nothing!! The N.I. Supplementary Benefits Commission responsible for overseeing SS operations

make people attend. In that I wasn't wrong. The class, numbering about 25, fell into two groups. The majority were students who seemed predestined for careers as social workers. Some even admitted as much. They at least had inexperience and good intentions as an excuse. Not so, the second smaller group., which wouldn't have been out of place at a Tory Law and Order debate. Although they were reticent about their motives it seems they were more concerned with personal advancement than the welfare of society's rejects.

There are three paths into a career in social work or the probation service, a

Only one rig left to go!

The Donegal Co. Council have had another monthly decision to do something about stopping uranium exploration..... though the councillors with sizeable share investments in P. Hughes' Companies have somehow managed to thwart anything being actually done about it. Not surprisingly, the task of getting the mining companies out has been left to the local people themselves...those who have most to loose from the international speculators. Latest news is that Tara Exploration (tied up with P. Hughes private family trust) has pulled out altogether, and Northgate (again chaired by P. Hughes) is to run down its operations. And another of Hughes' companies, Anglo-United, have substantially reduced their commitment, with only 3 workers and one rig left to go.

So why do they seem to be pulling out now? The local opposition is certainly much greater than they could ever have anticipated, and this is playing a large

part along with the opposition throughout the rest of Ireland.... but the very nature of the nuclear industry (and uranium exploration/mining in particular) will always mean such sporadic ups and downs. Uranium exploration/mining is based on upping share-prices, EEC grants the price of and demand for uranium on the world market...with enough nuclear armaments to kill us all 1000 times over, and enough nuclear waste literally lying around to do the same, the rush for even more uranium has slowed somewhat. As Anglo-United themselves say... they are temporarily running down... "in view of the current world-wide circumstances affecting the short-term prospects for uranium". Demand for uranium and hence the return of Anglo-United and friends to Donegal will depend on people like mad-Reagan pushing us all even faster than Carter towards oblivion.

The uranium grabbers with their false promises of jobs and community welfare will be back when it suits THEM.....this much they say. What they don't say, (but won't forget) is that the real feeling against them will not disappear in their absence!

degree, A levels or 'relevant experience'. It was obvious that this course was going to be the 'relevant experience' that would pave their way to a cushy job for life. The fact that Probation Officers are 'officers of the courts' and are as much a part of the system as the screws in Long Kesh or the interrogators in Castlereagh won't trouble their conscience unduly. Its a melancholy fact that as Thatcher conscripts more unwilling recruits into the ranks of the unemployed in her fight against inflation, the numbers of potential clients for these hypocrites will mushroom.

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SUPPORT DURING HUNGER STRIKE

LETTER FROM A FRIEND IN LONDON - R.

Though support activity in London seems to have gathered some more momentum in the past week or so, it has so far stayed within the traditional leftist milieu. I went on the Nov. 15th March a few days after returning from a week in Belfast—and upon seeing the banners of 52 irrelevant Trotskyite sects among the marches I knew I was really home. In Belfast, I had just observed a situation in which support for the hunger strikers and their demands took the form of direct community based action against the state. While I was not expecting precisely that sort of 'scene' in London at the moment, the ritualistic quality that has usually afflicted leftist events still came as a shock: the various groupuscules dust off their banners, exchange newspapers, take a Sunday stroll for solidarity followed by a pint of real ale.

There has been some recent improvement, perhaps because of the increased urgency of the situation. The second national march was a bit more energetic, particularly as we entered Kilburn. (The police already in copious supply seemed to have increased in numbers and heaviness at this point.) Local Troops Out chapters and ad hoc groups have been initiating action in their areas, and on December 10th the Central Polytechnic was occupied for a few hours. Needless to say, this sort of action should not be restricted to universities, but applied to department stores, banks, city streets and underground stations. Turn outs for various demonstrations will tend to be low and dispirited unless action is taken and information, where people actually are when possible with some creative disruption of the daily social and economic relations of which the H Blocks, torture and the British occupation are extensions.

The demand for political status has caused some controversy among British anarchists, given the view that all prisoners are political. Questions regarding the relation of republicanism and nationalism to an autonomous class movement have also been raised. While these issues won't be resolved easily, many anarchists have taken up at least critical support. A leaflet put out by some people in Rising Free (an anarchist/libertarian communist bookstore in London) points out that the demand for political status relates to the specifically political nature of the prisoners' detention. "This may be no excuse for limiting these demands to 'political prisoners' far less is it an excuse for not supporting these prisoners at all.... Revolutionaries in Britain, the source of the military and administrative apparatus in the six counties have a direct responsibility to confront the British state and support the Irish working class"

For some time, a group of anarchists have been going on the marches and doing graffiti. Two were recently arrested for painting a brief, succinct "letter to the editor" supporting the hunger strikers on the Sunday Times building. A week after the anarchist 'decorators' had their encounter with the law, two other activists busted for graffiti in the same area were held for two days and threatened with the PTA when one tried to call a solicitor (some indications of how the authorities will be dealing with increased activity in England against the H Blocks). In addition to such artistic pursuits, London anarchists have organised a showing of the Belfast Anarchist Collectives video tapes at which further action will be planned.

MORE POLITICAL PRISONERS

Over the past few months, and particularly since the beginning of the hunger strikes in Long Kesh and Armagh prisons, many people have felt the need to define for themselves the terms 'criminal' and 'political', in relation to prisoners.

Republican, as well as some loyalist prisoners have been struggling since 1976 for a restoration of political status, removed by the then secretary of state, Roy Mason. This was a psychologically motivated move to label those people convicted of consciously political acts as 'criminals'. The reasoning behind this move should be clear—any person, or group of people who attack in any way an established order are labelled as being criminals—'social deviants', unreasoned people committing certain acts for their own personal gain, be it spiritual or financial, psychopaths with no regard for the welfare of the rest of society. The British government attempted to hide the fact that they were, and are still engaged in a war, in opposition to a group representing the aspirations of a different political force, with their own political programme. These 'criminal' laws are used against these people, and those who offer any threat, on any level, to the present six county state.

Although we disagree on many levels with the means and eventual aims of Sinn Féin, we see that it is perfectly clear that anyone, who, in any way (ideologically/physically) attempts to undermine the existence of a given state, it's laws, it's repression, it's benefactors interests, is going to be labelled as being a 'criminal'. The fact that many people who commit political (in the states mind, criminal) acts are not conscious of having done so, or of the political nature of their crime, is important. Many of us automatically accept that people who are imprisoned for crimes of shoplifting, robbery, vandalism, violence against security forces, fiddling social security, electricity meters and other property/authority related crimes that you can think of, are criminals. Yet when we look at the circumstances under which many of these acts are committed, we can see that they are political.

Capitalism breeds wealth for a privileged few, and poverty for many. The vast majority of people are deprived from birth, deprived of an adequate education, deprived of an adequate environment in which to develop. Instead, we are given the minimum, what we are told we need. We are taught to accept that the possibilities of a better existence are non-existent (except, if we are good, a better life in heaven). These, and a combination of other factors lead to us being labelled as failures at an early age. It's a fact that in our present system only a few may become successes, and the rest of us are destined to be 'failures'. Economy demands that a few will fill the positions of bank managers, technologists, state bureaucrats etc. and that the rest will become the unskilled, low paid, unemployed, housewives—many times subordinated—failures, preferably with a sense of guilt about our position in society. It becomes a necessity for a lot of people to shoplift in order to fill the plate at dinner time, to clothe the children and fulfill our basic needs of existence. Theft takes place on

many levels, and often is very individualistic. Working class homes are broken into and burgled by people who, in spite of their need, cannot distinguish between the real enemies, and those who are in the same position of need. Nonetheless, when people are imprisoned for being so anti-social as to try to steal from the right sources, they are automatically, and effectively criminalised. It is also anti-social, or counter revolutionary, as the rantings of the media would have it, to strike for a better wage which is, for many, necessary in order to survive, a danger to Britain, Poland or wherever—a danger to the interests of those who make the rules. Many young people, in a world hostile to their unprivileged existence, destroy property which, realistically, is not in their interests, which isn't theirs and foreseeably never will be. Besides, there is very little else to do in a high rise state of existence. Of course we cannot support or attempt to justify all crimes, but we do have a basic understanding of the conditions under which these acts are committed (eg. the role of the patriarchy, stereotyped attitudes towards sex roles, and the resultant violence against women). We do not want to justify such acts, we want to prevent them, to promote an understanding of our position in society, for people to be able to identify who the real criminals are.

"SO LONG AS THE MAJORITY....."?

The British Cabinet papers on Anglo-Irish Relations from 1948 to '49 were made public this year. One of these (CAB128/32) showed that the Labour Cabinet under PM Atlee agreed with the statement of the Cabinet Secretary, Sir Norman Brook,.....

"So long as Eire owes no allegiance to the crown and is not a member of the Commonwealth, ... some part of Ireland should remain, because it is essential for strategic reasons, within His Majesty's Dominions. ... It will never be to Great Britain's advantage that N.I. should become part of a territory outside His Majesty's jurisdiction. Indeed it seems unlikely that Great Britain would ever be able to agree to this even if the people of N.I. desired it."

LETTER FROM THE INSIDE ANARCHIST.

If someone says they're an anarchist what does that mean? Attaching the label is easy ... as we don't organise as a Party or issue membership cards who can judge who is or isn't a member of the movement? If I said I was a conservative or communist or whatever I'd have a card to prove it. The only way to judge whether someone is an anarchist is by their actions... unfortunately most of the people who claim the anarchist label in England never do anything beyond lifting a pint glass to their mouths, so how can we know if they are what we understand by the term?

Phil, HMP Long Lartin.

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Belfast Anarchist Collective

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW
MORE ABOUT THE BAC
WRITE: BAC, c/o
11 MONTEAGUE ST.,
BELFAST

OUTTA CONTROL ... of the state, bosses, patriarchy, schooling, churches ... As Anarchists we oppose the authority and exploitation of this society, and advocate one of free association and self-management. This paper comes out every 3-4 weeks and we welcome contributions, criticisms etc.

WHAT A BLOODY STATE!

No.10 ... Enter Carlin and Co., the trade union bureaucrats (caps in hand) bumbling on about the 16% unemployment in N. Ireland; the local MPs dutifully asking for a handout to save the latest 800 jobs in British Enkalon in Antrim and the 240 jobs at Euroweld and the latest is £10 million for Delorean; the well heeled poverty experts who point out the deplorable social conditions in Ulster as compared to the rest of the EEC; the local business operators and politicians who are appalled at the latest 'terrorist' outrage, want tighter security. 'Oh please, please, please Mrs Thatcher, could the state give us more money, jobs, houses hospitals, police, etc.'

DREADFUL STATE

The state has poured £70 million (so far!) into the Delorean Car Plant in the spurious effort of producing luxury sports cars (just what we need).

JOBS FOR THE BOYS

It will subsidise Harland and Wolff to keep the largest concentration of 'protestant' workers quiet producing cheap ships for capitalist shipping companies.

It will spend a few millions maintaining the veneer of a welfare state, cutting all the welfare services to a bone.

It creates bogus employment schemes, made to look as if they're doing something and subsidise workers wages to keep firms from bankruptcy or losing jobs.

It will waste billions on Britain's only growth industry, security, ensuring that everything remains the same enabling private enterprise to get on with it.

CARRY ON REGARDLESS

Capitalism isn't interested in anything other than what can yield the highest profit, and so what if that means laying off workers or even killing them to secure that!

CHIPS WITH EVERYTHING

The liberals hope for more state aid, nationalisation and bigger subsidies to attract the multinationals. The trendier the multinationals are, the better. In the early 60s, it was engineering, in the 70s it was the synthetic manufacturers, and now in the 80s it's the brand new saviour of the country - the microchip!

HERE TODAY ...

Multinationals owe no allegiance to any country but only to their shareholders. They shift their industry where they can get the highest state grant and the cheapest workforce. Look at any impoverished country, and especially here, and there will be, or have been, ICL, IIT, IBM, etc.

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STILL FALSELY IMPRISONED

Martin Meehan, who was on hunger strike last summer in an attempt to protest his innocence, lost the appeal on which he had rested a lot of hope.

Originally, along with two others, he had been found guilty of "Conspiring to kidnap" and "False imprisonment" (ironically). The evidence rested solely on the word of a paid army informer, McWilliams, who was also the object of the kidnapping. Meehan finished his determined 66-day hunger strike after being told that Amnesty International would 'launch an investigation' into his case. During his hunger strike, there was much heated feeling, rioting, mass marches, a blaze of publicity, and a considerable amount of embarrassment for the Diplock 'believers'. The time lapse between the end of Meehan's hunger strike has given the Courts a breathing space whilst they considered how best to put this 'embarrassment' away for a second time.

During the appeal, the main problem for the three appeal court judges was to preserve the 'integrity' of the judge of the initial trial. The evidence used was circumstantial and unreliable, McWilliams (the informer) was tripped up several times on his 'facts' changed his statement after being shown new evidence by the RUC, identification was made only after a photograph of Meehan was shown to McWilliams by the RUC police etc. All that Meehan 'got' from the appeal was that he was cleared of 'Conspiracy to kidnap' (on a technicality). Not much good, as he didn't get a reduction in sentence.

Yet again, the RUC got what they wanted from the courts (as usual), that was to put Meehan away for a long time - The only problem for them was to be able to present the 'evidence' in such a way that it didn't seem to be too contrived, consideration of the facts shows just how farcical the whole thing was. Unfortunately, we have 'learned' friends and the media to consider these things for us.

One of the conditions under which Meehan ended his hunger strike was that Amnesty International would be 'investigating' his case, which they are doing BUT...according to their Northern Ireland research officer, Mr. D.Korsze, they won't be making a statement on his case, but 'might' include it in their overall investigation into the Northern 'special courts' - some consolation after their promises to Meehan. It seems that Amnesty International's policy of 'not wishing to offend' remains. During the Murray's trial in the South, four years ago (when two Anarchists were under threat of death for 'murdering' an off duty guard during a bank robbery), Amnesty International kept their mouths firmly closed, even under much pressure at a time when Noel Murray could have been hung at ten days notice.... All that they did (eventually, when the heat had cooled off) was to issue a statement saying that they 'opposed capital punishment anywhere'. Korsze also said that their 'investigation' of the Meehan case would be to look for 'points of concern' and not to 'determine the innocence of the accused'.

A Licence to Have Sex



The present Fianna Fail government were forced to legalize contraception on Nov. 1st 1980 after a decade and a half of angry protest that the extended far outside minority and left wing groupings. Family planning clinics were set up in defiance of the law. Sympathetic Doctors supplied the pill to patients for 'period regulation', and the European Court of Human Rights ruled that it was an infringement on private morality to ban the importation of contraceptives for personal use. The Catholic Church realized that it was futile to continue their protests against new legislation and instead started to warn the religious community that no matter what the state ruled, 'artificial' contraception was still morally wrong.

The new bill was drawn up by Haughey while he was still Minister for Health and despite its obviously (Catholic) sectarian nature passed through the Dail with little difficulty. The wording of this bill is so ambiguous as to allow many different interpretations on its main stipulations. For instance anyone supplying the means for 'artificial' birth control (cling wrap?) must apply for a license under the new regulations. Contraceptives may only be supplied by chemists after a doctor's prescription has been produced (this includes non-medical contraceptives such as condoms and spermicides). A doctor or chemist may refuse to provide contraceptives on moral

cont. on back page

— LESSONS

It is still unclear if the hunger strikers gained any of their demands; at the moment there is a 'trial' period to establish if they can wear their own clothes, and when. Depending on the outcome there may be a resumption of protests. But no matter the result, last years campaign should be looked at for lessons. There were 2 important areas of concern - 'respectability' and accountability.

RESPECTABILITY

The Catholic Church and the Southern and SCLP politicians were continually appealed to for support. At one of the big Dublin marches, it was declared from the platform, 'if you won't lead us Charlie (Haughey), step aside'. Apart from the fact that we don't need anyone to lead us, Haughey, Hume, Blaney (who appeared on the platform) and co. are politicians whose job is to manage society in the interests of bankers, industrialists, property speculators, etc. They are in the top echelons of the state which maintains and improves the wealth and power of the ruling class. They are alternatively opportunistic and ruthless when it suits their power games. The only solution to a hunger strike which they will work for is one which leaves them powerful and us weak.

The Catholic bishops are also managers of people. They have power interests in property, education and especially people's heads. This church is one of the most authoritarian and patriarchal organisations in the world. It will hardly be a party to giving people more power over their lives. At the local level they channel almost all community resources through their hands in areas they control. They help reproduce the morals of obedience, sexual ignorance, guilt and female passivity. At the top of the hierarchy they control the school system, which conditions each new generation of 'catholic' children, and have a hefty income from land speculation and rent collection. Their power is recognised by the NIO, RUC and the British Army who consult them on the best methods for control.

When O'Fiach and Daly talked with Atkins and Thatcher it was because they feared a loss of credibility if they weren't seen to be lobbying for 'their flock', and because if a hunger striker had died, the ensuing bitterness and violence against the state would have threatened their control.

If people want respectability they have it in the relatives and supporters who have turned out for the protests. They have it in themselves! Don't look to these 'managers' of people. If you think they have more influence because of their power, remember that power is gained at your expense. They have power because they have taken it from you. Once in power they will not risk losing it. They will only risk it when they fear losing it altogether or when they have a chance to increase it.

ACCOUNTABILITY

There were two structures for the organising of protests. Two years ago, the National H block and Armagh committee was elected at an open conference in Belfast, and last year a new committee was elected. While it is ideal for the organising of mass marches throughout Ireland and for gaining wide support, it had several shortcomings.

Firstly, it was based in Dublin, far from the heart of the struggle and it reinforced the image of protest against the Northern state as coming from Dublin. The committee was composed mainly of representatives from political parties (Sinn Féin, IRSP, PD) and "public figures" who are there for respectability and influence. But they have sectional influences and, more importantly they were not accountable during the year. (This is not a detraction from the work and risks that they faced. In fact, two of them have been shot dead, and Bernadette McAisley seriously injured because of their work and public appearances).

The fundamental relationship between this committee and the other structure, the delegate meeting, was one of giving it instructions. This second structure was made up of weekly meetings of two delegates from each area where there was a hunger strike committee. The delegates reported back weekly and were accountable. They were in the heart of almost everyday protest, and knew which strategies were most effective. While individuals belonged to political parties, there was more pressure for them to represent the areas than those groups.

There were some blind alleys pursued by the national committee. While mass marches increased peoples morale and were symbolically powerful, they shouldn't have dominated peoples energies. Also, the 'respectable' tag could people into thinking that they could get to Armagh jail, or the British embassy, while leading them to a confrontation where the RUC were massed and armed to the teeth. If we really wanted to get to the jail or the embassy, then different tactics might have succeeded. Not only did we not get anywhere near the destinations, but the National committee stewards became a police force and were seen to beat people back. Certainly in Armagh, it would have been suicidal to try and break through, but why lead us into such frustrating, one-sided set pieces?

Delegate meetings with, say, an elected committee (accountable) who could prepare the details of protests necessarily in secret, would be more productive in the organising of effective protests.

It is quite possible that had the delegate structure been the basis for organising, the parties (especially Sinn Féin), would have moved in and dominated the local hunger strike groups, and so the election of delegates. But this is a problem which would need more space to discuss.

ANARCHY!

TO BE GOVERNED IS TO BE: watched over, inspected, spied on, directed, legislated, regimented, closed in, indoctrinated, preached at, controlled, assessed, evaluated, censored, commanded; all by creatures that have neither the right, nor wisdom, nor virtue . . . To be governed means that at every move, operation, or transaction one is noted, registered, entered in a census, taxed, stamped, priced, assessed, patented, licensed, authorised, recommended, admonished, prevented, reformed, set right, corrected. Government means to be subjected to tribute, trained, ransomed, exploited, monopolised, extorted, pressured, mystified, robbed; all in the name of public utility and the general good. Then, at the first sign of resistance or complaint, one is repressed, fined, despised, vexed, pursued, hustled, beaten up, garrotted, imprisoned, shot, machine-gunned, judged, sentenced, deported, sacrificed, sold, betrayed, and to cap it all, ridiculed, mocked, outraged, and dishonored. That is government, that is its justice and its morality! . . . O human personality! How can it be that you have covered in such subjection for sixty centuries? Pierre Joseph Proudon 1860s

Euroweld Occupation

We applaud the sit-in at the Euro-Weld industrial plant, considering the passive reaction to redundancies in the North, such as those at British Enkalon, Courtaulds etc. The Euroweld company makes tanks for the chemical industry, and is a subsidiary of P.X. Nuclear, which is owned by Paul X. O'Neill, and his family from Boston.

The people involved are staging this sit-in because of the Owners' proposed redundancies, and eventual closure, due to 'bankruptcy'. Of course this company was to be another of those great solutions to unemployment, even Atkins was giving O'Neill the 'pat on the back' routine. Now, with O'Neill gone, Atkins has been left with egg on his face.

One of the workers' representatives said that they would like the chance to run the factory by themselves, the major problem to this being finance, and the state surely isn't going to give finance to that sort of venture! The workers' believe that the grants given to Euroweld before the strike were very poorly utilised, and as to where the money has gone, O'Neill's pocket seems to them to be the obvious answer.

Unionist MP, Peter Robinson is due to visit the plant on Thursday 29th, but as one person pointed out, his motivation is purely one of publicity, and not out of concern for their problem. Likewise, the Union leaders have not given support to the sit-in (So much for Terry Carlin and his mouthing about unemployment). As usual, they'll probably wait until it's 'safe' before making any great protestations ie. when the strike is over. Euroweld is part of the nuclear establishment (constructing boilers for nuclear reactors), and an ideal partner for the operation of the country would be a rejection of the nuclear industry by the workers, in favour of socially useful production. Even one of the workers said that he was opposed to nuclear power as the 'final solution' to the energy crisis!

INDIVIDUAL: "MAY STRONGER MAN
TAKES AN INDIVIDUAL FROM THE GOO AND HIS
OWN," HAS THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: "THE
STATE IS IT IS INDETERMINABLE THAT NOBODY HAVE
A 'GON NILL'; IF ONE HAD THE STATE WOULD HAVE
TO EXCLUDE LOCK OR BROWSH HIM, IF ALL HAD
THEY WOULD DO AWAY WITH THE STATE."

**BLOODY
SUNDAY
MARCH**
SUN. 1ST FEB
2pm. CREGG
BUSES LEAVE
DUNVILLE 12

LATEST, IS THAT THE 90 PRISONERS, WHO CAME OFF THE NO-WATCH PROTEST TO ALLOW THE GOVERNMENT AN OPPORTUNITY TO RE-EVALUATE ITS REPAIRS, UNLOCKED THEIR CELLS & RESUMED THE PROTEST WHEN NO MORE WAYS WERE

"HIDEOUT CAFE"-
VEGETARIAN FOOD,
WHOLESOME + CHEAP,
OPEN THURS - SAT.
12-4pm, JUST BOOKS.

BLACK FLAG - JUST OUT, VOL. VI NO. 6, 25p.
ARTICLES ON: HUNGER STRIKE, CITIZENS DEFENCE,
CNT, SPANISH REPRESSION, U.S.A. + IRAN,
GERMANY, SOUTH AFRICA, ARMY BRIGADE, ETC.
OTHER PAPERS - FREEDOM, XTRA, ANARCHY.

BRITS 'N PIECES.

ONE WAY TRAFFIC

Three soldiers recently convicted of the multiple stabbing of two farmworkers, have been transferred to British jails, in contrast to the refusal to allow Irish prisoners in Britain to be transferred here.

The fourth soldier involved, and in charge of the patrol (now a captain) withheld the information he had about the killing. He received a suspended sentence, again in contrast to the long jail terms handed out to those who oppose this state.

ACTIVIST SHOT

Another assassination attempt has been made on a H-Block activist. Bernadette McAliskey, of the national committee, was seriously injured along with her husband when a gang broke down their front door and pumped bullets into them. Three loyalists are at present in police custody, having been caught red-handed by a British Army patrol. There are a few questions unanswered. Did this patrol happen to arrive just after (and not before) the attack? Why was the patrol there, when it wasn't its patch (which was in S.Armaah)?

ROTTEN APPLES

The ones chosen by the DPP to take the stick for the RUC's reputation for brutality and sectarianism have appeared in court. It's the first time serving officers have been charged - two with the beating of J. Rafferty, and one with the shooting dead of young Michael McCartan last year. In line with the policy of 'criminalisation' and the necessity to improve the RUC's image, those officers who've been caught out are being charged and tried. Whether the courts put them away or not won't hide the fact that the whole bloody basket is rotten!

BLACK FLAG - JUST OUT, VOL VI NO. 6, 25p.
ARTICLES ON: HUNGER STRIKE, CITIZEN'S DEFENCE

STARTING 'WORK'

Most working class parents' aspirations for their son's future was to "get a good trade behind you, then you can go anywhere!". After leaving school I immediately began "to serve my time" which is to disappear due to the micro chip. For five years in working for the firm I was supposed to pick up all the skills with the help of my workmates and the night courses and day release at the Tech. (Whose role was more concerned with the history of the trade and the traditional way of working and were years behind any new technological developments of the trade and the skills needed). Five years of slave labour wages and skills that could be learned in two...but then the bosses would not get that extra three years of cheap labour. The unions collaborated even more when they introduced a scheme when for the first six months of starting a firm you were sent to the Tech to learn the trade so that you were immediately more useful to your employer although still serving the full five years.

The unions supported this system believing it somehow enhanced the stature of the 'journeyman' who went through the same process and therefore deserved the high wage and perpetrated the idea that the trade was so complicated that it took five years to gather the knowledge.

The first year, until the next apprentice came along, was spent going messages for the men, doing the most repetitive jobs (not necessarily connected with the job), and being treated like the general dogs body. Most apprentices had a similar experience.

THE WORKERS

Some of the workers were referred to as the "firm's men". Though they didn't have any status such as overseer or foreman, they had an unquestioning loyalty towards the boss and always took his side and "squawked" on fellow workers.

Others, through experience, knew how to "box clever" and always managed to look busy when the manager was around and farted around when he wasn't.

Most just kept their heads down, grinding on and taking orders. I suppose the backbone of production.

In all the time I worked there (six years), I never saw any stoppages...in true Ulster tradition...and only once was there a threatened overtime ban for an extra pittance a week, which the employer gave almost immediately and at the same time chopped an hour off the regular four hour Saturday morning overtime which meant you didn't run into double time on the last hour.

Any national wage claims the union made to the employers body were done in Britain, and strike action was done over there, as Northern Ireland was a 'special case'. The only sacrifice which the Belfast lads made was a voluntary donation for the men who were out on the strike.

Women working in the firm even when on an identical job as men got about half the wage. Our union wouldn't allow women admittance. The men in the firm accepted this situation and perpetrated it, knowing that any solidarity with the women would undermine the whole basis of the 'craft' system and their status.

Unions were organised on a craft basis and subsequently wage negotiation became even more difficult as they were not only competing with other unions represented in the firm but also fighting the employer

ANARCHY
JR White



"From Loyalism to Anarchism"

Cienfuegos Press have just published 'The Meaning of Anarchism' by JR White, with an introduction 'From Loyalism to Anarchism' by Albert Meltzer.

James Robert White (always called Jack) was born at Whitefields, Broughshane near Ballymena into a rich Protestant landowning family. All through his life, however, he rejected his privileged position and fought for what he believed to be right, rather than doing as most Loyalists did in defending what they felt to be their own interests (in fact the Loyalist working class were and have only been defending the interests of their bosses).

White struggled, along with James Connolly, to try and set up a Socialist Republic and it was White who proposed the formation of the Irish Citizen Army.

He later led the Irish Republican Brigade against Franco's forces in the Spanish Civil War. It was in Spain that White first came into contact with anarchist ideas. He was very impressed by the way these ideas were into practice in Spain, so much so that after only a few months he became a committed Anarchist. He later went to England to try and get support (and arms) for the Spanish Anarchists.

In England, White first met Matt Kavanagh a Liverpool-Irish Anarchist, and they worked on a survey of Irish Labour and its aspirations from an Anarchist perspective.

White also wrote a study of the Cork 'soviet'. These works are, however, lost as his heirs destroyed his papers when he died in 1940. The 'Meaning of Anarchism' is therefore the only available work by White.

The pamphlet is divided into two parts - The first explaining Anarchist theory by contrasting it to Marxism and the second part applying this to the events of the Spanish Civil War.

who set one union off against another. High wages were not dictated by the relative skill or knowledge needed for the job but by the militancy of the union's members.

As new technology was introduced there were frequent disputes between the unions as to whose members would operate the new equipment. This disunity only served the employer.

I remember the employer introduced a yearly bonus scheme. Some of the profits were to be shared out to the workers. The amount was completely at his discretion and was the minimum amount needed to keep us quiet. Naturally he gave the most money to the workers who were most likely to protest about the amount and relatively little to the quiet workers (usually old) whose consistent work deserved more. This inequality caused bad feeling amongst the workers towards each other and defused any attempt for us to demand a greater share of the profits.

I also remember that the majority of the people working in the firm felt that if the firm were to close the EMPLOYER would

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In the first part White clearly exposes the lack of logic expressed by Marxists with their nonsensical theories of destroying the state by seizing power (thus actually becoming the state and they will hardly work to make themselves 'wither away') and their Pseudo-Mystical bunk about Scientific Socialism.

This is contrasted with Anarchist thought which rejects the seizure of power as ultimately corrupting those who seize it (ie. the state cannot 'wither away' over a period of time- must be smashed) and substitutes voluntarism and spontaneity for the Marxists' mechanical faith in the 'inevitability' of a Socialist Revolution occurring and being followed by a 'Socialist' State which will "wither away" to be replaced by a stateless Communist Society (where everyone will live happily ever after).

White takes as examples the 1916 rebellion in Dublin and the Russian Revolution which show that Marxist analysis is far too mechanical to be totally relevant as it fails to take into account human factors such as spontaneity and voluntarism which can be expressed better in Anarchist theory.

In short, what Marxists actually suggest is a *political* revolution whereby one hierarchical state is replaced by an alternative hierarchical state.

What Anarchists demand is a *social* revolution where all hierarchical institutions are smashed and people are able to organise their own lives without any outside force exerting its will on them.

The second part of the pamphlet loses some of its relevance to today because at the time it was written White was applying his arguments to the 'recent history of Spain', which is not recent history anymore. Nonetheless, for anyone who knows something of the history of the Spanish Civil War it is well worth reading.

Whites pamphlet, and Meltzer's introduction show the logic of Anarchism and to some extent its relevance to Ireland today. If the Northern Irish people are to replace the chaos of modern capitalist society with a society based on mutual respect and freedom (and I would say that this is only possible in an Anarchist society), it is a priority that the British presence (military, economic and cultural) be removed. For this new society to work, it must eradicate the existing sectarian division in the working class. As Jack White said, "My aim is to unite Irishmen against English men, not to divide them among themselves:

have the most to lose. They didn't see that all one hundred of us would suffer individually whilst he was only one person and had lots of other sources of seedy income. This somehow demonstrated the respect which the workforce had for the 'leader' and felt themselves irresponsible for their own future.

A WORD FOR OUR SPONSORS

The owner was from a family of your typical landed gentry. A Unionist landowner with a long tradition of inherited wealth and power through years of exploitation. He belonged to a faceless tight little lot, who spent their days following the usual lordly pursuits such as fox hunting and had their hand stuck in every dirty little business in Belfast over two centuries. Being a very physically tall family this only reinforced their aloof position to their employees whom they regarded with contempt and arrogance. He may have been at one time the top layer of the Ulster capitalist cake but now finds himself being eaten by the much larger fish, the multi-nationals and their take over bids.

cont. from front page

One example is Euroweld (PX Nuclear) which is closing down with the loss of 240 jobs after receiving a massive state grant in the forecast it would employ more. However it is now in debt to the tune of £1½ m., no doubt paid out to directors and shareholders.

THATCHER AND COMPANY

State capitalism, or nationalism, does little to improve the economic position of the country. The workers get no say in how they work but are controlled by state bureaucrats who relate to them in exactly the same way as private industry. The workers have no control of profits which are handled by faceless state bureaucrats.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

If faced with redundancy - Don't expect your representatives (MPs or Trade Union bureaucrats) to be able to do anything. They have done fuck all so far. Directly negotiate yourselves, and try to get to some position of strength and occupy the factory to prevent any removal of machinery. Get the cooperation of the remaining workforce and the support of any other workers who can put pressure on the bosses. Try to turn it into a workers cooperative producing socially useful goods.

DON'T HURT YOURSELF

Any industrial action should be aimed at getting public sympathy and not public outrage which the national press publicises so well. In the recent Citybus strike their only tactic was to stop operating the bus service, therefore people had to walk to work. Why couldn't they have let people travel free? (No doubt too revolutionary for the conservative trade union bureaucrats).

REMEMBER

The people that do have a job, or have just had a pay rise shouldn't lie back counting their blessings but should actively show solidarity with workers who are fighting to protect theirs. It could be your turn next! Next Issue: Unemployed? Don't just sit there

LETTER

Can I raise a few points/questions arising from the 'More Political Prisoners' article in the last O.C.?

'Theft takes place on many levels and often is very individualistic'. I think its almost always individualistic: the small minority being the politico robberies. You don't mention the other levels at all - ie. tax, lease hire (banks), (capital I accept is too big a one to go into in such an article), councillors buying green belt land and rezoning it as industrial or residential, company cars, dinners etc., bankruptcy writeoffs post-tax-relief-period, factory closures, politicians' perks like free travel etc. Perhaps they are too long to mention. And all the psychologically induced levels, ie. free this, that and the other for priests and nuns etc.

'It is also anti-social, or counter-revolutionary as the rantings of the media would have it...'. Since when have the media taken to using the phrase 'counter-revolutionary'? Anti-social, yes, every day, but counter-revolutionary? Were you referring to Poland here? Its not very clear.

'We do not want to justify such acts, we want to prevent them etc.' This sentence I find really mystifying I'm afraid! Will understanding anarchy prevent crime? People identifying the real criminals won't either. If anything, both of these justify crime by those already engaged in it, though possibly against different targets. Also one reason why most crime is localised and not against the rich is that (a) no bus fare/ stolen car needed to get to area, and (b) no rich houses have alarmed houses, guard dogs etc. ie. There are practical reasons too too!

STATE MURDER

Three men - Patrick McCann, Colm O'Shea and Peter Pringle - were sentenced in Nov. to hang by the Special Criminal Court in Dublin for the murder of a policeman. An appeal against the sentence has been lodged and is due to come up in a couple of months time. Whether they will hang or not is questionable. Haughey will want to maintain his liberal image among his EEC friends and so this could be in their favour. But against them is the fact that the cop was uniformed (the point that the cop in the Murrays' case was not in uniform, was a big factor in their appeal). Also another cop was killed in Wexford and the state could see hanging as a way of deterring attacks against members of the security forces (which is unlikely to work), or more simply as a means of revenge.

THIS ISN'T THE ONLY WAY TO GET OUTTA CONTROL, WHY NOT SUBSCRIBE?!



No Nukes?

A long time ago, the Irish governors claimed their decision as to whether to build nuclear stations at Carnsore Point in Co. Wexford (and possibly elsewhere), would have to be delayed...until an EEC report on the nuclear nightmare at Harrisburg (USA) in March '79 was published. Nearly two years later radio-active leaks are still occurring which has stopped technical experts from fully examining the nuclear plant. Nevertheless, the EEC have managed to commission a report which marvels at the SAFETY of nuclear stations like that at 3-mile-island!! So enthusiastic are they, that they do away with the notion that nuclear reactors should be built well away from centres of population...such faith in the ultimate killer-technology also encourages the doing away with much of the actual labor. This is to be replaced with automation, with a few migrant workers trying to ensure that the right buttons get pushed at the right time.

No technology is developed in a vacuum and clearly it is no coincidence that nuclear power is being developed and pushed the world over by to-days mad rulers. They'll never see any further than the technology in front of them. So no wonder this 'independent' report by 'high level experts' FROM THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY are threatening our very existence by producing a report with the most pro-nuclear enthusiasm ever.

So what are Haughey, Colley and their backers to do now? Wait until after the May general election...yes...but maybe the exchange of gas to Belfast for Kilroot electricity will slow down their plans for a nuclear Ireland. Maybe not. With the EEC report so much in favour of nuclear power, a nuclear Carnsore could be started sooner rather than later! And maybe the Northern Ireland Electricity Service could find the solution to the problems at Kilroot with a little reactor?

cont. from front page

grounds (ie. if they think that 'artificial' contraception is morally wrong). They can also refuse if they believe the contraceptive is not going to be used for 'Bona Fide' family planning purposes.

WHAT'S BEING DONE.

This bill is totally unacceptable to anyone who believes in the liberty of the individual, and so the campaign for 'contraception on demand' still goes on. Although some clinics have decided to apply for licences (which means they must now employ a full time chemist in the clinics) a couple have decided to continue in defiance of the law, and haven't as yet been challenged. Although the medical and pharmaceutical unions have largely remained silent (well they're going to make money out of this aren't they?) some doctors are refusing to see those patients who want non-medical contraceptives and leave them instead with their receptionists to be sold on demand.

Contraception Action Programme continue to set up a stall in Dandelion Green as do the students Union in U.C.D. and Trinity which supply non-medical contraceptives and supply information on other methods.

It is hard to know how the Bill is working for those who want contraceptives for 'bona fide' purposes and can afford the doctors and chemists charge and who are not embarrassed or infuriated by the rigmarole they must go through to obtain them, but there are many reports of large areas (eg. the midlands) where the chemists are not even stocking contraceptives, with many doctors and chemists availing of the conscience clause as they were told to do by the church. The government of course claims that it is working perfectly well but then they would. Within the next two weeks C.A.P. are starting an investigation of the Bill at work in the Dublin area and the results of this should be known within a month.

Virtuoso Performances Ltd.

Martin Lynch, with his plays based on the lives of Belfast working class people, finally reached the gin and tonic scene at the Lyric Theatre this year.

Although it was obvious that he had put a lot of effort into Dockers, a play similar in tone to his other plays, Taking Down the Barricades and Is There Life Before Death, what finally emerged after the Lyric Players had added that certain sophisticated something was a parody of Belfast people.

The actors at the Lyric never change. You could put them into any part of any play and you would still get the same character. Dockers was an excellent vent for them. They all played cartoon versions of themselves, and the main character (so I was told at the interval: it wasn't in evidence) a 'militant trade-unionist' gave a choice portrayal as a wooden cliched hack, a typical CP joke figure.

What infuriated me was the definition given to workers grovelling over the crumbs the employers thought fit to throw them and fighting amongst themselves to get them. Thats anarchy, if you don't mind. Well, I do, and I am only sorry I wasn't fast enough to shout 'fuck off' to the resident socialist playwright at the Lyric.

Dockers is not a bad play, though like a political James Young play, but it is wasted at the Lyric. Such theatre is dead: Martin Lynch should never have left the community, the people his plays are about, at least there, you have a chance of discussion afterwards about trade unionism and its abysmal record in Northern Ireland. Don't anchor yourself at the Lyric, Martin Lynch, its not where its at.

Any state and its army need an effective communications system.... both within the country and between other states. Its survival depends on it. Thus the airwaves are zealously guarded from interference by those outside its magic circle. Control of these forms of communication: whether underground trunk cables, microwave radar, or satellite...is a top priority. Total control is a strong point of any state but also potentially its weakest.

Every radio mast, radar centre, telephone cable or whatever... is designed NOT for our pleasure and entertainment, but for purposes of war and control, for the launching of attacks (including nuclear) and for communicating from one secret bunker to another, whether the war be between countries or within its own borders. Without microwave, for instance, we wouldn't have colour television...but it was designed as a comprehensive radar system for the timely launching of nuclear destructionany so-called benefits to us are purely incidental. That little innocuous mast blurring out BBC rubbish can to-morrow be used in the death of thousands of people. Ireland, and particularly northern Ireland is by no means exempt from this nuclear night-mare. A network of facilities have been secretly developed in Ireland, for war-use by the legal RAF, the United States Air Force (USAF) and NATO.

Some RAF bases in Britain and Ireland have been "earmarked and stock-piled" for use by the USAF, operating in the world interests of the US military (and in particular the infamous National Security Agency) all quite separate from NATO. The USAF operate a network of communications separate from the Post Office and the Ministry of Defence. In Ireland, this intelligence infrastructure takes the form of ground-based listening posts which, up to the rise of Reagan, were under the direct control of US war-monger Z. Brezinski. All these radar listening posts are linked into US-controlled Menwith Hill in England, the largest satellite communications centre in the world. Menwith Hill is linked to the RAF radar post at Bishops Court in Co. Down, and indirectly to the south of Ireland via another microwave post at Dead Mans Hill, near Newtownhamilton in S. Armagh. (Amongst other things, the facilities at Menwith Hill make national and international phone-tapping a relatively simple exercise) While Bishops Court is ostensibly run by the RAF, it is at the disposal of the American military. The Americans also have 3 communications bases in Ireland which are independent of the Post Office and the Ministry of Defence. These sites are at Slievenorra (W. of Cushendall), Dungiven, and Cushendall.

Important to US war interests as these three sites undoubtedly are, the most important link to the US and NATO are the facilities made available at Bishops Court, which in turn links all over the north. Bishops Court is part of Britain's Broadband Relay Network....a microwave radar system which carries colour television and some telephone traffic. That's one use.... it was developed with other motives in mind...phone-tapping, support for military communications radar, air attack, spurs to other radar stations forming part of the NATO nuclear attack system.

A network of facilities have been secretly developed in Ireland for war-use by the legal RAF, the United States Air Force and NATO

(The microwave system includes a link to the secret British military government HQ at Cheltenham, where the 'war effort' will be co-ordinated.)

The microwave system is due for intense development, to complement the US space surveillance technology which is presently being developed even further. That noted quiet liberal — Carter — managed to pass the biggest military budget in US history before handing over to Reagan. Carter and the rest of the US military machine upped war spending by 4% (beyond inflation) to the staggering sum of £79,000,000,000 for THIS YEAR ALONE!! Reagan intends upping this even further, and part of the proceeds will be spent in increasing the "effectiveness" of its European radar networks, including its independent and RAF-loaned posts in Ireland. (The rest will be used to develop nuclear submarines B-1 bombers, greater air-lift capacity to get US troops to Europe using giant CX cargo aircraft, and satellites). The US thinking is that a nuclear war could be fought in Europe or the Middle East and could be WON by the US....and to do so it needs a check-board of airfields and radar throughout Europe to be placed at its disposal.....to either launch a nuclear attack on the Soviet Union... or to shift troops quickly to the GULF to ensure that the big machine called America doesn't run out of oil. Likewise they believe that Soviet retaliation could be via the 'back-door route' round the back of Britain and over Ireland. So those ground based communication posts at Dungiven, Skevenorra and Cushendall are vital (remember the USAF base at Derry which closed down in 1977....It's use was as a communications link to Polaris submarines in the Norwegian Sea — this role has now passed on to Thuro in the extreme north of Scotland)....Vital too are the R.A.F. facilities on loan. War is a REAL possibility with the US prepared to spend a fortune in Europe, and with a mad general (Haig) given the post of Secretary of State (Haig's message to other Nato countries — Haig is ex-head of NATO — is spend, spend, spend....get ready for war).

So with the US leading willing western governments towards war....it's best to know what part in this catastrophe Ireland is expected to play....

Once the US decide that their war is imminent, Britain and Ireland go on a war footing, the whole nuclear standby system and standby airfields swing into operation for real. The centre for military operations is most likely in Armagh, where a secret underground bunker was dug out into a hill beside Gough Barracks in the late '50s. This secret underground military bunker is equipped with sufficient room and supplies for 100 or more military and some civilian people. It would be from here that our administrators and controllers would stay out of harms way while the rest of us went through the night mare of nuclear holocaust. The secret bunker is linked to the British army land forces HQ at Wiltshire by a series of emergency circuits. (there are also secret switchboards manned by the military at Portadown, Derry, Ballymena and Downpatrick). Armagh is also linked to the overall British radar system by routing through a small radar station at Cromhill South east of Ballymena (it looks more than a bungalow with a mast). Cromhill has similar links to a secret station, at Shanes Hill, South West of Larne. From there it feeds into the main British network via Scotland.

The vital link in the radar chain is at RAF Bishops Court in County Down. It has radar equipment clearly visible above ground, although the main centre of operations is buried beneath the airfield. Bishops Court watches signals linked by microwave radio channels fed through a station on the side of Black Mountain at Standings Stone Hill. Bishops Court is not an "early warning system", though it is linked to the overall British microwave system which includes "early warning". It is used as a tactical control unit....to direct the submarines, helicopters and planes (both RAF and USAF) about to launch their destruction. It is an essential part of the Western war machine.

RADIO-ACTIVE

The route of the radar and data signals is from Bishops Court to Ballygomartin, and Black Mountain (Standing Stones Hill), on to Portpatrick in Scotland, and thence to the computerised centre at West Drayton in England. A back up alternative route exists from Black Mountain to Dead Mans Hill in South Armagh, and then, via Dublin, to Wales and Drayton.

(This isn't the only link with the South. So-called Irish 'neutrality' was never more than an accident. It was merely the case that successive Irish governments would not join any military alliances (e.g. NATO) in which Britain was a member. But since joining the EEC such splendid isolation is a myth. ...an EEC defence policy exists.. an attack on one is an attack on all....so Ireland won't be joining NATO, but sees no contradiction in forming an agreement with the USA for Shannon airport to be used in times of "emergency" (i.e. US aggression). It would be used to airlift US troops using huge carrier aircraft. Ireland won't necessarily be supplying troops in the next US-attack nuclear war.....it will merely allow its radar and airport facilities to be used. That is all the US needs. Their missiles do the killing.

The role of Ireland in a western nuclear war is not restricted to the use of radar stations and airfields....it may have more DIRECT uses. Remember Ballykelly RAF station in Derry.....how a "few acres in Derry helped defend the free world" by providing a communications link to polaris submarines in the Norwegian Sea.... supposedly shut down in 1977 and handed over to the army, renamed Shackleton Army Barracks. However, there are still RAF people on the site...and it is used by Anti-Submarine Warfare Sea King helicopters which normally operate from Cornwall Northumberland and Lossiemouth in the Moray Firth in Scotland. A-S-W Sea Kings use Ballykelly once again an important western station now that nuclear war strategists feel that they need to plug the gaps on the Western seaboard if they are to annihilate all they wish Eastwards in Asia. ASW Seakings carry anti-submarine NUCLEAR depth charges, and amongst other things, the prospect of submarine nuclear warfare is high on the US-National Security Agency thinking for the future, judging by the latest budget allocations. How much of the billions will reagan spend in Derry? The facilities at Ballykelly will most certainly be up-graded, just like the radar system at Bishops Court in Co. Down. Ballykelly has the added advantage of being close to a secret government site at Brenbradagh Mountain (which is near Dungiven where an independent USA USAF radio channel exists). Brenbradagh Mt. has an underground (secret) storage facility for nuclear weapons, possibly the only site in Ireland for storing such devices. We should be wary of under-estimating what NATO (i.e. NSA of America) plan for Ballykelly and Bishops Court...people in Britain were told that cruise missiles were to be put on their doorstep only after the US military had made the decision.

So Ireland becomes part of the US war games... and that is why during the recent NATO war-games (operation crusader) much of the North was listed as being obliterated by Soviet nuclear weapons in response to them being attacked by the USA. (Though the military and civilian few will survive in their radiation-proofed

Ireland won't necessarily be supplying troops in the next US attack nuclear war...it will merely allow it's radar and airport facilities to be used.

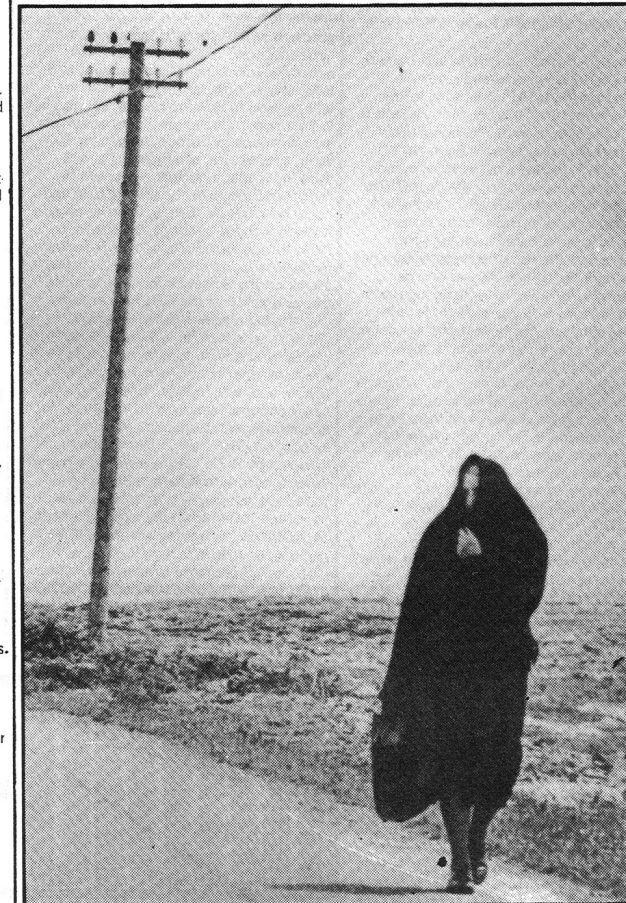
secret bunkers, communicating and directing through an extensive radar system.)

Generally speaking, ALL radar is mixed up somewhere with either the British system, or the independent USA/NSA system. Some secret radar stations and underground bunkers have been identified in this article...others have yet to be discovered.* It would do no harm to watch very carefully and see how the war-mongers of the USA intend spending

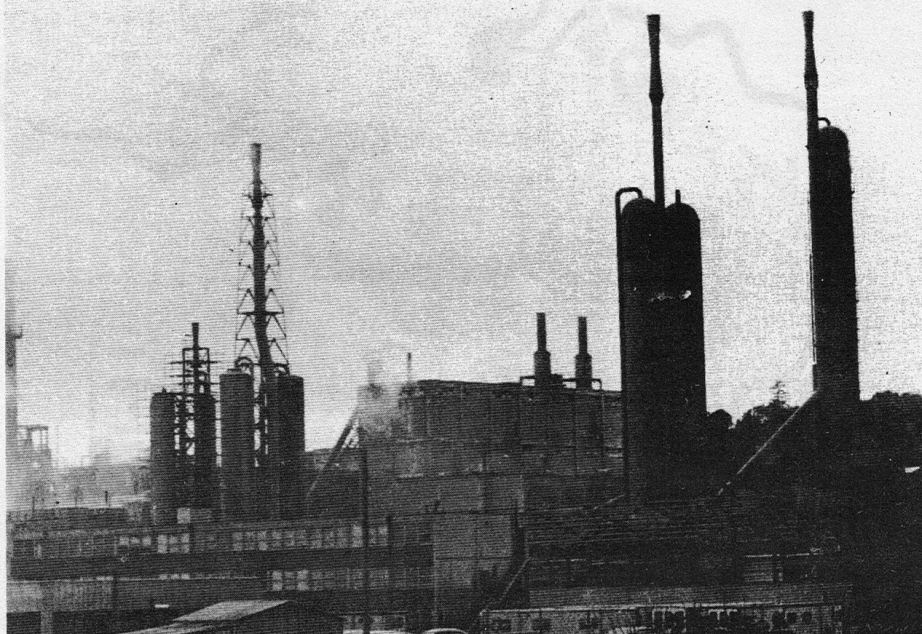
the £79,000,000,000 it has allocated for warfare during 1981.

* For instance, how much is there underground at Danescroft Farm between Hillsborough and Lisburn? Is it just an innocent bungalow with a radio mast.....like all those other little bungalows in England which mastermind nuclear warfare?

The next Workers Research Bulletin due out late February should have much of interest to add.



LAYING IRELAND WASTE



DANGER: CHEMICALS

It has been estimated that 80% or more of all cancers in people are caused by environmental factors, probably to a large extent by synthetic chemicals. Even more frightening, however, is the realisation that these chemicals, as well as causing cancer, are also producing genetic damage in those exposed to them. While tests are done on many chemicals to ensure their 'safety', it is public knowledge in the US that much of this data is false, and in many cases companies have distorted safety data, and suppressed reports that indicate that chemicals they are producing or using, cause cancer and other damage.

EFFECTIVE MONITORING IS NO ANSWER.

Cork City and county is one of the most concentrated areas of toxic development in Ireland—Pfizer, Penn, NET, Mitsui, Elanco, Raybestos, etc.—yet Matt Whelan Chief Environmental Officer of Cork County Council, has admitted that effective day-to-day monitoring of pollution in Cork 'is far beyond the capabilities of the council'.

We are producing this map to show the national impact of toxic industry -of which nuclear is but one part -on Ireland. We believe that, while each industry must be fought in its local area, the continued development of this industry threatens us all and therefore the fight against it must also have a national dimension. We include both industries already set up ('progress' reports) and those planned (coming attractions). We would welcome information on the following plants: Snia, Loctite, Ciba -

Geigy, I.X. We'd also like to point out that while toxic chemicals are the main products in the industries on the map, many materials which pose a grave threat to the health of workers, such as organic solvents, are used widely throughout industry. Nor have we included such other obvious threats to workers health as noise and vibration in this short space.

ASBESTOS.

The pull out by Raybestos in Ovens in Co. Cork does not end the struggle against the use of this killer dust in Ireland. In 1978, about 7000 tons of asbestos was imported into Ireland: only about 250 tons of it was used by Raybestos. About 5000 tons is used each year by the TEGRAL group of companies, a subsidiary of CEMENT -ROADSTONE.

These companies have been in operation since 1938, and until 1976 were known as Asbestos Cement Ltd. (Athy) and asbestos cement pipes Ltd. (Drogheda). A spokesman for the two companies in 1978 admitted that they dumped about 1500 tons of asbestos cement waste each year at their dumps in Drogheda and Athy.

A report in the Irish Press (26/5/78) spoke of an unnamed company in the West of Ireland which had disposed of two plastic bags of asbestos waste a week on the nearby local authority dump since the late fifties.

SYNTEX -Clarecastle, Co. Clare. Workers at this pharmaceutical plant had to sign statements saying that they would not sue the company if they became sterile. Reports of male workers developing breasts indicates sex -hormone work perhaps.

ESSILOR -Ratheen, Limerick. 13 people hospitalised, 40 workers evacuated from the factory after exposure to trichorethylene. (TRIS)

HYGEIA -Galway. Galway noxious industry group reports that the herbicide 2,4,5-T is produced by Hygeia in Galway. This is commonly contaminated with DIOXIN the chemical involved in the Seveso disaster and has caused birth defects in workers exposed to it throughout the world. Forestry and wildlife service used 600 gallons of it in 1977.

CHEMBIOTIC -Brinny, Innishannon. Schering Plough subsidiary, manufactures antibiotics. Responsible for at least two fish kills, one woman reported to have been sick as a result of the smell.

SILVERMINES: Tailings pond at MOGU -L mine burst into Kilmasytulla River. Thousands of Co. Limerick people warned not to drink the water as the spillage was "dangerous and may be toxic" (14/10/80)

DUMETCO -Lead. Over 20,000 people in Tallaght have signed a petition protesting against the granting of planning permission to Dumetco for a lead factory at a local industrial estate. The factory, which will be grant aided by the IDA and will employ less than twenty, will be situated near housing estates with large numbers of children under 13 -that part of the population most at risk. Studies show that high levels of lead in the atmosphere affect the reproductive systems of both women and men, increasing the chance of miscarriage, and decreasing the sperm count. Lead affects children especially, causing lowered intellectual capacities, and a number of behavioral disorders, including hyperactivity.

ELANCO (Eli Lilly) Due to open in September near Kinsale, Cork Co. council have given them permission to manufacture 11 categories of unspecified drugs. Few people know what the plant will produce as Elanco claim that it is a commercial secret. What is known, though, is that Elanco have been given permission to discharge over 88 metals and chemicals into air and water including mercury, vinyl cyanide and polychlorinated biphenyls (PBC's) which have been banned in America because they accumulate in human tissue, especially in breast milk. The permissible discharge of cyanide is twice that allowed in America.

MITSUI - Little Island. Japanese owned plant produces levels of manganese above the levels permitted in other countries ie. 5 milligrammes per cubic metre.

N.E.T. - Arklow. Immediate area around factory devastated. Reports of abnormally high cancer rates among workers. Results of an I.I.R.S. survey of the plants environmental impact kept secret.

N.E.T. - Marino Point, Cork. Many leaks in the plants first year of operation. Local people affected

MERCK, SHARPE and DOMHE - Carrick-on-Suir. In January 1979, a chemical explosion ripped the plant apart, three workers were saved from death by split seconds. Effluents are discharged involving one million gallons of water a day at 25c. and dissolved and suspended solids consisting of chloride, sulphate, sulphide, ammonia, nitrate, phosphate, cyanide, phenols, detergents, mercury, lead, copper, zinc,

cadmium, nickel and chromium.

WHIDDY - Bantry Bay - Thirty workers murdered by Gulf and Total negligence.

SOME TOXIC DUMPERS

CHEMICAL WASTE TREATMENT LTD, Foxwood, Hill Rd, Bunratty, Co. Clare. Hazardous solid and liquid wastes. Country wide operation. Private dump at Friarstown. Co. Limerick.

LEHANE'S SLUDGE DISPOSAL SERVICE, Siogamar, Kilcrea, Ovens, Co. Cork. Chemicals, Oils, sludges. Cork City and county operation. Dump unspecified.

MICRO BIO (IRELAND) LTD, Industrial Estate, Fermoy, Co. Cork. Wastes needing neutralisation or detoxification before disposal. All Ireland operation. Unspecified private dump.

Wm. O'BRIEN LTD, Upper Ballymount, Clondalkin. Some toxic wastes. Use Kill and Ballyally dumps.

AXXON WASTE DISPOSAL LTD, Walkinstown Ave, Dublin 12. Sludges, private tip, Kildare, Ballyally (local authority).

In the meantime, while the state goes ahead through the courts, in its attempts to force a dump on the farmers of Nohoval, in Co. Cork. Dublin Co. Council are planning to open a toxic waste dump in Dunsink, near Finglas. According to them, there are 370 firms which are having problems disposing of toxic waste at the moment. They hope to use the stop gap measure of this dump to relieve pressure until the

state comes up with its final 'solution' to this problem.

SOME NOXIOUS NORTHERNERS....

I.C.I. (Carrickfergus), COURTAULDS (Derry and Carrickfergus), DU-PONT (Derry), HOECHST (Limavady) MONSANTO (Colerane), and BRITISH ENKALON (Antrim) are all petrochemical based, high energy consumers. Among the products made are: Orlon, Neoprene, Nylon, Polyester, Viscose, and Terylene.

Effluent from these plants is carried directly by pipe to the Belfast and Foyle loughs. An eye witness stated that the sewage pipe from the Hoechst plant entered the sea near the 'Mussenden Temple', a beauty spot in North Derry, between the seaside villages of Castlerock and Downhill; and that the sea around this outlet had been turned into "a slimy jelly-like green substance." Caustic soda is, or was until recently, stored at the harbour in Carrickfergus.

DANGER: URANIUM MINING.

Uranium prospecting is being carried out in various parts of the country by a number of multinational mining companies, with the aid of E.E.C. funding.

In the course of the various mining processes (test drilling, trenching etc.) radiation is released into the soil, air, surface water and, eventually, humans and animals. Should Uranium be discovered in commercially viable quantities, the damage to land and life as a result of any mining would be impossible to estimate.



OVER THE PAST 25 YEARS NEW TECHNOLOGY HAS BEEN THE KEY WORD IN INDUSTRIAL "DEVELOPMENT". EACH YEAR, THOUSANDS OF NEW CHEMICALS ARE RELEASED ONTO THE MARKET - MANY OF THEM 'ILLEGALISED' CHEMICALS BEING MARKETED UNDER A NEW NAME, OTHERS ARE EQUALLY DANGEROUS, PASSING SHAM TESTS WITH EASE. WE WILL OPPOSE ANYTHING WHICH POSES A THREAT TO OUR FUTURE, OUR CHILDREN, OUR LAND —



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Donal,
60, Marlborough Rd,
Dublin.

Just Books,
7, Winetavern St,
Belfast 1. Ph. 25426.

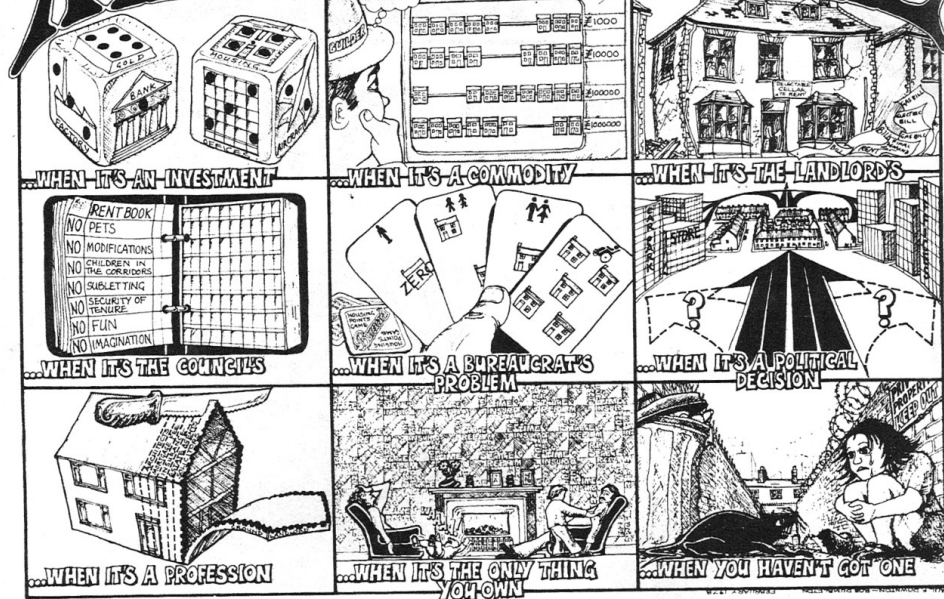
**OUTTA
CONTROL**

HOUSING SUPPLEMENT



THE HOUSING CRISIS

A HOUSE IS NOT A HOME



BUILD, BUILD, BUILD!

An assumption of today in the kind of 'welfare' capitalist society we live in is that the magic force of the market will satisfy most human needs and that the government welfare bureaucracies will meet the rest. However, the shortage of housing is just one problem that the state can't deal with. The state is not concerned with human beings and how they live...to it, they are objects...to be used, abused and manipulated. The state is concerned with power and privileges etc...(In effect, concerned with its own self-preservation).

The state-and private enterprises concept of what housing should be are not very different. The major difference between the two arises over profitability. Private enterprise will build when the price is right. The state builds when its economic policy demands an injection into the economy to stimulate growth, its an instrument to be used in the same way as taxes are. What neither do, especially the state, is build houses, communities etc...which people want. To suggest that to build more houses and increase housing stock is the answer to housing problems is naive to say the least.

One of the major problems of housing is the way in which we are forced to live...if it was just a question of stock, then why are great parts of Craigavon and other estates empty? The way then that we are forced to live in nuclear units, which are the modern capitalists dream...the smallest number to live in one building and be proportionately the greatest consumers.

EXTENDED FAMILIES AND BEYOND.

The old street communities of back to back houses and of the extended families were smashed with the tearing down of the inner city and the random allocation of new houses in urban housing estates. The extended family as a living community had many problems as well as being noted for some good points on the areas of personal relationships and on consumerism. Firstly families didn't feel so isolated as their counter-parts in the new housing estates...if the kids were getting you down they could always go to their grandparents three doors up, while you cleared your head. Likewise if your Ma and Da were getting you down a couple of nights spent at your cousins would take the pressure off.

On a consumption level every family didn't need to have a phone, car, lawn mower (that's if you were lucky enough to have a garden) drill etc...these items could all be shared.

The extended family at least gives us some idea of what it could be like to break out of the nuclear unit to one where a small community can develop together, share problems, etc and be of a help to each other. A new type of relationship which transcends blood relationships with all the problems that that entails.

Ultimately people will have to take control of their own housing...deciding what we as a community, street and individuals need. Not by some bureaucrat who receives a salary whether they scratch their arse all day, or because of their guilty conscience they replace the missing slates on your roof after you have spent two months attempting to harass them.

JOHN CUNNINGHAM looks at the story behind the latest housing fiasco

High rise homes: cheap and hasty

beginning of the... four tower blocks built with... then is being replaced... council... panels and local authorities... residents of council flats...



ON YOUR OWN.

At present, institutions like the Housing executive give faster individual responses to housing problems rather than group or community involvement — fobbing groups off with individual points per house, special requirements of individuals etc. — it wouldn't do to have block grants for streets etc. where people themselves decide how they want to spend it, on who needs more repairs etc. — rather than those who have the know how to hassle and get grants etc, and those who don't remaining in the abject slums which will continue as long as the state persists on individual response.

Another idea is Block rents, where those who have more should pay more than those who don't. At present, the Housing Executive would claim that they are attempting to improve housing by giving grants for bathrooms etc. Again, to get the grant, householders have to apply individually and get the extensions done individually. If the state was sincere about people having bathrooms they would build them all at once in the same street, considering houses were not built randomly, but by the street, therefore conditions would apply roughly the same to each of the dwellings. The state has even used new technology in house building, new types of material, new construction processes have all been used in other sectors other than in public housing.

When you do have a complaint, the Housing Executive gives you the run around between "District Offices," "Redevelopment Offices"—"Oh sorry dear, repairs section is dealing with that....Oh, we passed that on to the contractors.....No, I'm sorry, but we can't give you their name, ask at the district office...." and so it goes on and on....

A couple of months ago, a man from Walnut street called George Clarke took the Housing Executive to court in an attempt to carry out repairs — repairs that they didn't carry out after numerous phone calls, solicitors letters, visits to area offices, two orders from the petty sessions, and finally a threat from the high court to imprison the Director of the Housing Executive if the repairs were not carried out in 6 MONTHS!!!

LEGALITY

Obviously playing the game doesn't work. Its now nearly impossible to withhold rent as an individual act—a step across the legal line. Because of the rent and rates strike over interment in the early seventies' the then Stormont government had no problems passing the payment for debt act. A vicious piece of legislation which enables the Housing Executive, and Electricity Service to obtain rent or payment without your permission from your wages or social security payments.

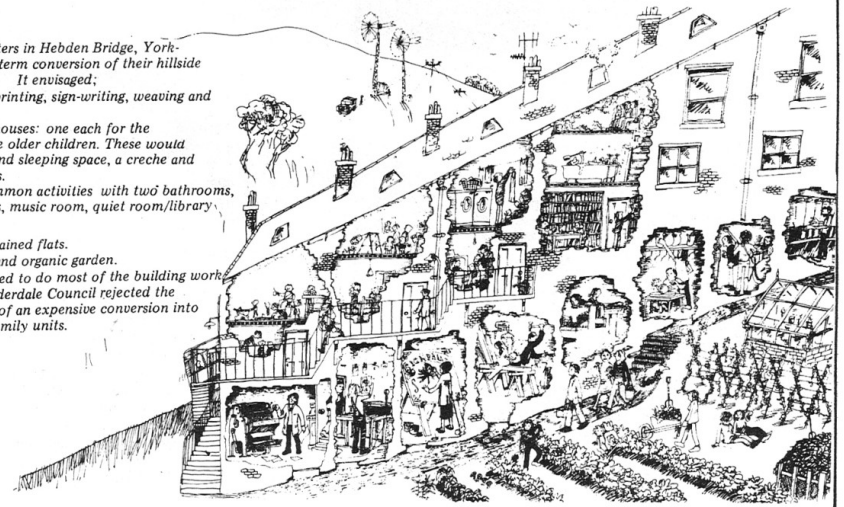
Recently it was discovered that when people were making housing applications there was a request on the form for the applicants national insurance number so that in the event of them wishing to enforce the payment of debt act they won't have much problem tracing employers or social security offices. They don't happen to say on the form that the N.I. question is voluntary and that they have no right to demand it.

Information between different departments flows quite easily — information which is there for the taking. Bearing in mind the discovery of the SAS in a dole office by workmen one Sunday (see OC number 9). It isn't hard to believe that people are being used, abused and manipulated.

Proposal by squatters in Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire, for the long term conversion of their hillside terrace

It envisaged:

- Workshops for printing, sign-writing, weaving and making clothes.
 - Two children's houses: one each for the under-fives and the older children. These would incorporate play and sleeping space, a creche and education facilities.
 - A house for common activities with two bathrooms, a sauna, TV rooms, music room, quiet room/library and laundry.
 - Sixteen self-contained flats.
 - Wind generator and organic garden.
- The squatters offered to do most of the building work themselves but Calderdale Council rejected the proposal in favour of an expensive conversion into standard nuclear family units.*



LESSONS FROM THE PAST.

It is ironic that in today's economic climate political commentators compare it to the '30s and the war years when some of the biggest occupations and squatts took place in Britain. Brighton Ex-Service Mens Secret Committee worked at night breaking into buildings and installing homeless families with their belongings. In Glasgow, when rent increases were made, the women banded together, street by street, and refused to pay, then they formed The Womens Housing Council. They spied on the movements of the bailiffs and rent collectors, barricaded their homes, and reinstalled the furniture of evicted families.

Recently in Amsterdam, the homeless have joined together in a mass-level, highly organised, anti-authoritarian squatters movement called the "Kraakers". Ten thousand people are now occupying some 5,000 empty buildings. Recently, at the Dutch Queens coronation, they marched with the cry "No housing - No coronation". The riots lasted for five days, and the squatters created their own 'No go' areas. It took 8,000 police and army personnel to protect the coronation, and the city was transformed into an armed camp, reminiscent of the German occupation in '45. What the Kraakers have achieved, like the Womens Housing Council, of the '40s was a togetherness of people all suffering the same problem, all doing something about it collectively.

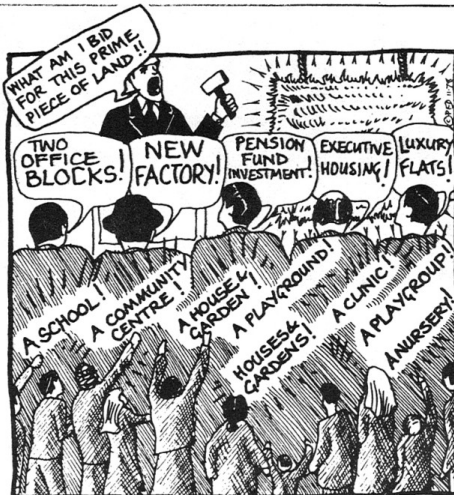
CHANGES IN SIGHT.

Just before christmas in Belfast, a housing enquiry took place involving all the local tenants associations (from Divis, Shankill etc.), advice centres, and anyone else who was interested. It was the first major collective action involving people who are suffering as a result of the appalling housing situation in Belfast. The grim statistics and experiences came pouring forth, as well as how the housing executive has dealt with these problems in the light of the recent cutbacks. At present while the housing executive have 32,000 people on its waiting lists, its pathetic budget was reduced by approximately a fifth. Only repairs likely to lead to injury will be dealt with. Leaky roofs will be dealt with after anything up to 3-4 months, any other complaints or repairs have a likely response equal to nil. Enquiries such as this will eventually produce a report which will undoubtedly say that the housing stock is too small and that repairs are not being done quickly enough. The function of the report will be to embarrass the executive or government into moving on this issue. Housing associations have seen this as being their principal function during the last ten years. Their successes, unfortunately, haven't been great - why? Because they have been attempting to "get things done" along the same lines as Mr. Clarke, they are playing by a set of rules decided upon by the state. Channels that have to be used, channels designed to confuse and to put the protesting group off.

What must be considered now are new ways to take control of our own housing, and at least ways to get them to give us what we want.

DEMOLISHING DIVIS.

An attempt has been made at this by the Divis Demolition Committee. The Divis complex was built in the sixties, and it suffers from acute dampness, bad ventilation, overcrowding and unemployment. The committee carried out a survey,



the results of which surprised even the tenants. They decided on a campaign to get the complex demolished, and to get new houses built the way they wanted.

The way that they went about it was to systematically smash vacated flats. This was done with the aid of plumbers, electricians etc. - to turn off water supplies, take out electrical wiring, and then demolishing walls, ceilings, floors etc. - They made it impossible for the housing executive to reallocate the flats, flats that were uninhabitable even before they were wrecked. The end result of the campaign was for the housing executive to announce plans to pull down part of the complex and rebuild new houses, as well as to refurbish the remaining flats.

SQUATTING

Squatting in the North reached really high proportions in the early 70's, when Catholics and Protestants were forced to move to areas where their 'own' people were in a majority. Since then squatting, surprisingly, has been quite prevalent and at the moment the Housing Executive has 4,000 properties occupied, which is twice as many as in the Greater London Council Borough. Squatting in the North has been illegal since 1946, but even with the law, the Executive has not been able to do very much about evicting families. Most squats are in ghetto areas, and are not communal squats. On the occasions when the Executive have tried to evict with the aid of the Brits, they have been met with community based opposition, road blockings by black taxis etc.

Recently, the spokesperson for the Housing Executive, Brian Henderson stated that "Further cuts in the housing programme will again encourage squatting."

Unfortunately, the majority of squats are in public sector which doesn't really threaten the state, but the people at the top of the housing list. To be in the position of being at the top of the housing list means that you must be living in over crowded, squalid conditions. So in effect, squats in public sector houses are denying those who need the houses most of all.

Squatting, however, in the private sector can only be encouraged, since all those buildings, offices etc. were created to make profits, to exploit.

WHAT NEXT?

The major lessons that have to be learnt by people that live in shit conditions is that by trying to achieve something by their rules is just not on. Individual responses etc. and reasoned argument are useless. Institutions will fuck us over at every opportunity. We must work together on our own basis, occupying their offices en masse, carrying out direct actions like the Divis committee did, and supporting others in their actions. We must take the step beyond their basis of legality and do what we think is right - and take what we want and need, living in the way that we want, and not in the chipboard boxes that they offer us.

ISSUE 13 MARCH 1981

outta Centro!

10p

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW
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BELFAST. (A)

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News & Views of the Belfast Anarchist Collective

OUTRAGE CONTROL ... of the state, bosses, patriarchy, schooling, churches.... As Anarchists we oppose the authority and exploitation of this society, and advocate one of FREE association and self-management.

This paper comes out every four weeks and we welcome contributions, criticisms etc.

NO-WASH PROTEST ENDS HUNGER STRIKE BEGINS!

A second hunger strike has begun, with Bobby Sands, who is serving 14 years for possession of a gun, refusing food on Sunday, March 1st. He will be joined later by others including it is thought, 2 of the previous women hunger strikers from Armagh.

On March 2nd the 460 blanket men and 28 women in Armagh announced the end of the no wash protest, so as to concentrate all energies on the basic demands of no prison uniform, no prison work and free association.

The no wash protest in Long Kesh began when the men were humiliated and often beaten on their way to the toilet and wash room. They refused to leave the cells and

emptied the pots out of the window and under the door. But when the windows were boarded up and the urine swept back into the cells, protesters wiped their human waste on the walls.

The women in Armagh were forced on to a similar protest last year when their cells were wrecked by male screws and the toilets were locked up for a week.

Now that the prisoners have abandoned this tactic, they will presumably face the same conditions of harassment which forced them on to it. But they say this will be risked in order to highlight the hunger strike for their 5 demands.

PROTEST

On the outside the action groups have regrouped but with reduced membership which is explained by the confused ending of the previous hunger strike. Then the prisoners were given only a verbal promise a victory march was held within days of this before the consequences could be known.

There was also the famous document which said very little in concrete terms and few people in the action groups have been able to get hold of a copy.

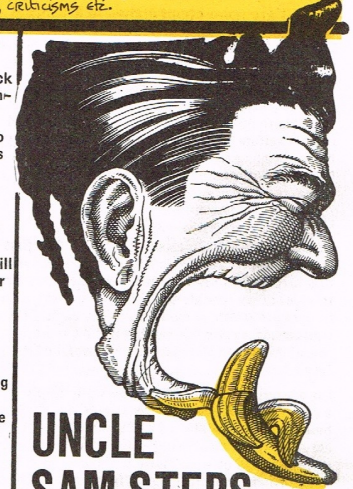
Despite the slow start, there were about 5,000 on the march up the Falls Road on the same day as Sands began his hunger strike despite the cold, rainy day, the continued on Page 2

CON - CENSUS

The last Census to be taken in the North was in 1971. At that time, there were many protests and counter - protests by various groups and individuals. In April of this year, we will most probably see a repeat performance, the same people saying the same things.....here's a brief account of what happened during the '71 census so that we can have an idea of what to expect.

The 1971 Census was the first to be computerised, and was also the first that the R.U.C. were not involved in collecting (collating is a different matter!). The Chief Registrar for N.I., Jim Malley, certainly had his work cut out...feelings were running high about the biased administration of justice (if it could ever be otherwise) in the North, the use of the vicious Special Powers Act, the antics of the British Army and their experiments with torture.

Many people feared that the security forces would be able to get at the census
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Even the liberals are appalled at the events in El Salvador where America is supplying military weapons, \$/ 25m a year, military advisors equal to that of Vietnam (for military advisors read men trained in spying, assassinations, torture and counter insurgency techniques) to prop up a ruthless tin pot military dictatorship. All this with the usual thirty year old slogans of stopping the creeping international communism, love of democracy freedom, etc.

CAPITALISM CREEPING UP THE INSIDE LEG OF AMERICA

For conservative strategists in Washington, the Sandinista revolution was far more menacing than Castro's Cuba: it was contagious. If Nicaragua could ditch its dictator why not Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras? Even Panama? What has happened in Nicaragua is the natural result of several decades of autocratic rule over people who eventually decided they had had about as much as they could take. The Americans would have to ensure that it wouldn't spread.

The Carter administration, anxious to clean up the human rights image of Latin America played a major role in the politics of El Salvador. It was closely involved in the overthrow of General Carlos Humberto Romero, who had come to power through fraudulent elections two years before.

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What we
pay him

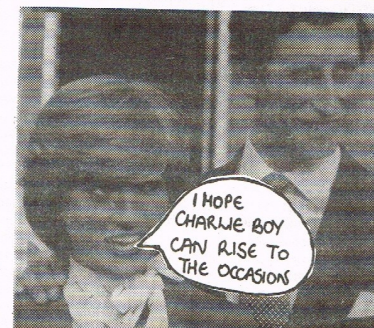
BWAGES: Net income from the Duchy of Cornwall in 1979 was £506,600. He keeps half for "expenses" like staff wages and pocket money. Mind you his family claim a cool £21,870,000 in total from the taxpayer each year.

HOUSE: Charles' new home, Highgrove House, set him back one million quid recently. Redecoration is expected to cost over £300,000.

STAFF: Immediate retainers include a cook, two kitchen maids, butler, gardener, 2 cleaners, 2 valets and a personal detective.

MOTORS: Charlie's not fond of cars and has limited himself to an Aston Martin DB 6 Volante Mark 2 (£20,000) and a Range Rover (£13,000).

HOBBIES: The Prince spends about £50,000 a year stabling, training and buying new polo ponies. Last season he had nine of them. *By*

[illegible]

"Shock Horror" Unemployment

Although the numbers of 'unemployed' is rapidly increasing, with the unofficial estimate reaching almost 20%, there seems to be little opposition or protest. Any militancy which the trade union movement may have had in its early days has been smothered by the bureaucratic and reformist tendencies within it.

The most we get is a delegation to Westminster, or a statement for the media decrying the 'economic madness of monetarism' and claiming to be 'appalled at the unacceptable level of unemployment'. The trade union leadership will even hold another demonstration in April. So what's new?

The left's response seems limited to a 'demand' for the 'right to work'. This demand is no more than a plea and the right to work amounts to the right to be exploited. And all nationalisation would achieve would be a new set of exploiters.

While we support any attempt to obstruct the ability of capitalists and the state to hire and fire at will, our tactics and aims must be more than an improvement of capitalist and state rule—whether of the welfare state or monetarist variety. They must be applied not as begging for more crumbs, but as a short term struggle in the overall direction of opposing the ability of our rulers to rule and exploit us.

CO—OPS

There are three main areas of activity. The first is the creation of co-operative work. The complexities of advanced industrial manufacturing will only arise if the workers of a firm which is about to close down, decide to take over and run it themselves. It is unlikely that others would have the capital (!) to start such a venture afresh and the buying of new materials and the distribution of goods 'on the market' are several of the problems to be faced.

Co-operative work doesn't necessarily imply the 'setting up' of a co-op, but in its general sense goes on all the time with people helping each other to look after children, fix the roof, repair a car, etc. What we are suggesting as well, is the creation of service or productive co-ops. Those with skills such as plumbing, could teach others and the 'gang' offer their services to the community either for free or at reduced prices.

The problem of income can be approached by either relying on the dole, and exchanging needs (plumbing food etc) or by charging reasonable rates if you are struck off the dole or to pay for materials. The gang would pool the income and redistribute it according to size of family etc. Productive co-ops could range from the growing of foods to the printing of posters etc.

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people who show solidarity are well
seasoned and not easily put down.

While there is determination and a general agreement that this campaign will be different there are few signs yet of what that implies. Obviously peaceful mass demonstrations were not enough but the only alternatives seem to be rioting or political action.

For the former to succeed there would have to be more coordination than before in order to stretch the RUC. The political action planned seems limited to the establishment political parties interpretations. Thus a call to make the North ungovernable at a mass delegate meeting in Dublin has been reduced by the National H Block Committee to forcing SDLP councillors to withdraw from the chambers!

For the hunger strike campaign to succeed against such a determined government its main chances would seem to lie with the broadening in scope of its objectives. The threat of unemployed people eg: beginning to emulate the courage and tenacity of the hunger strikers and the protesters outside, would not only force the government to make a move but might create the spirit and example of generalised protest against the conditions of exploitation, authority and sectarianism which produce such hell-holes as Long Kesh and Armagh.

Because so much of co-operative work is not profitable many people will still have to remain on the dole. This is the case for the majority of the unemployed anyway. Co-ops should not become safety valves for the state.

The level of SS is pathetic and methods to improve it and make it available to all those entitled should be found. This is not a reformist demand, if we realise that the state has no 'right' to decide what we get.

That right is based on power, and the ownership of the resources of wealth by capitalists and the state are what we must ultimately destroy.

There is always in the meantime though. So long as we are aware of the source of poverty and hierarchy and so long as our methods include an attack on those sources we can avoid being bought off and contained. The demand for higher SS rates must be coupled with such an attack.

It is important that any unemployed action groups do not link up with the trade union bureaucracy. Contact and solidarity with local workers can only help, but the officials are only interested in channelling and using you to maintain their own influence.

Equally, petitions delegations etc, have not only proved to be useless but are in themselves limited to asking. The occupation of dole, housing and electricity offices will bring a quicker result than a 'please sir....' It may also bring the RUC quicker, but a plea brings nothing!

DIRECT ACTION

One of the surest ways of overcoming inflation is to reduce prices, and one of the surest ways of getting something cheap is to steal it. Now don't think that we are suggesting that, but if you insist on risking a fine, the safest way is to do it in numbers.

In Italy its called expropriation or price reduction. There, crowds went into the supermarkets and either, walked out with their shopping bags full, or queued up and refused to let other customers at the till until the 'inflated' price was brought down to a reasonable level. Rock concerts, cinema and buses are other obvious targets.

If say 10p is an agreeable 'unemployed' flat rate for public transport, and about 20 people boarded Huebeck's bus refusing to pay more the most that could happen is they be asked to leave. With the bus being delayed while the driver (who should be challenged about his attitudes) got the RUC or the Whizzkid himself (Huebeck personally removed 20 suspects from a Citybus today....) the tactic might catch on and become unprofitable.

Con census cont. page 1
material by means of the Special Powers Act, the government denying that if they could, they would—at that time, their own intelligence systems were well under development, even so, the information from the census would have been useful base material.

Mass burnings of forms took place in Andersonstown, Ballymurphy, Ardoyne, the Markets, Springfield Road, amongst other areas. Reaction came from various quarters.... Paisley and his supporters pledged that they wouldn't fill in their census forms until all boycotters were prosecuted (presumably, as soon as Paisley was prosecuted, he'd be happy!) —The Presbyterian Synod, disliking Paisley's outlandish antics took their usual 'upholders of the constitution' position, and stated that those who didn't fill in their census forms were failing in their 'civic responsibility'.... surely it is in the interests of all to fill in forms detailing our supposedly private lives and passing them on to a higher power?

About 80 Priests boycotted the census (As calculating in their opportunism as ever), over the 'unjust operation of law in the North'.... A Presbyterian minister was prompted to suggest that the loyalty of these Priests was called into question by their antics! This particular action, which appears to have been the largest of the protests over the census, particularly 'puzzled' Mr. Malley, who said that the Bishop of

Down and Connor (whose Diocese these Priests were mostly in) had been "extremely cooperative" in publicising the census and had agreed to appear in promotional material (ie. Front page photos of Philbin filling in a Census form), it appears that Philbin is now conducting his own census.

The media, as usual, were very helpful in the collecting of the census, quoting every word that fell from Malley's reassuring golden lips.... all the questions are really necessary.... none of the questions are offensive and go no further than friends would in superficial conversation (By the way, mate are you a prod or a taig?). After the boycotts and burnings, Mr. Malley made a heart rendering appeal to those responsible citizens who had been misguided/coerced/intimidated into refusing the census, saying that anyone who wanted a form should come and collect, or ask for a new one.... No questions asked (strictly confidential?). The media's line was one of "surely it would be in the interests of all who accuse the state of discrimination to fill in the forms, as these are used in deciding which areas need what amenities." What a joke. One point which was validly made was that few of the protests were over the actual basis of the census... either it was a *British* census, or the census was being used to highlight other issues — not the fact that it is a *state* census, for their purposes.



UNCLE SAM STEPS IN
EL SALVADOR
Contd. from page 1

The new Government which consisted of progressive army officers and civilian politicians (including socialists and communists) promised to end the violence and corruption. The armed forces pledged that 'Order' would be dissolved and any other groups which violated human rights would be opposed; political parties of all complexions would be allowed to operate; an amnesty was declared for political prisoners (those that survived the massacre precipitated by the coup) and those in exile; free elections were to be held within a reasonable period.

Most political parties enthusiastically supported the new Junta's plan for agrarian and fiscal reforms in the interim period until elections could be held. Their enthusiasm was short lived. Three months later with the violence unchecked and all attempts at reform blocked by the economic elite (dubbed the 'fourteen families') and their allies within the military, the civilians in the Junta resigned.

When innocent people are being murdered by the State and various paramilitary groups acting on its behalf, at the rate of 12,000 a year, naturally the people will want to defend themselves, and are forced to take aid by whoever can give it whether it be from Cuba, Russia or Nicaragua. And when Haig, American Secretary of State, produces his 'thick document' on evidence of getting arms from these countries he is only trying to justify the intervention and supply of arms to the junta which caused the problem initially.

In El Salvador the violence has reached quite a manic level of cool discriminate terror, 12,000 killed last year and the recently uncovered 300 people massacre....the entire leadership of the 'legitimate' opposition kidnapped at a public meeting and murdered: four American nuns raped and then shot because of their work with the landless peasants, two American lawyers gunned down in the Sheraton Inn in San Salvador because they were associated with the movement for land reform. And all within a year of the assassination of Archbishop Romero. In short, the government of El Salvador is a military junta with a civilian president and a few civilian ministers, it used to have a lot more until a year ago when most of them through their lot in with the revolutionary left on the ground that the military were out of control.

Even the Church is not immune from general repression and are forced to speak out against it which makes them a legitimate target for the junta.

In the next few weeks to counter the sympathetic reports of journalists against the Duarte regime so far, we will see the extensive black propaganda machine of the United States of America going into full production with all its dirty tricks and lies.

After the recent Reagan meeting, Thatcher is already supporting America in their proposed blockade of communist arms to El Salvador.

What they are really saying is for the American armed junta to have free reign in disposing of an unarmed population who resist the dictatorship.

We only hope that America can be forced to withdraw their economic and military aid now before they send in the B52s and make another Vietnam for themselves.

Down with more radar

N.A.T.O. is a so-called war alliance between the military machines of Europe and America and is very much controlled by the American military industrialists who are prepared to finance so much of the weapons used throughout the so-called 'free world'. American business interests are at heart, though their weird notions of making the 'world free' is what they tell us.

American militarists are stock-piling weapons all over, and particularly in Europe... where all the governments from Greece to Britain are only too willing to accept the American war-machine. And throw in billions of pounds, drachmas, or whatever to add their own defences. As outlined in the last Outta Control, Britain is rapidly extending and developing an efficient radio and radar communications system as an essential back-up for war preparations. Latest at this time of austerity measures is the financing of a new micro-wave radio-station at St.

John's Point, in S.E. Down....6 miles from Downpatrick, and a mere 12 miles from the big radar communications centre at Bishopscourt in Co. Down. Planning permission has already been granted for the station and a 70-foot radar mast near the lighthouse....ironically on the same site that the electricity service wanted for a nuclear power station in the early and mid-70's. The planning permission is for a single story building though how much will be underground and what the cost will be to the Telecommunications industry is not for us to know. (We merely pay for it in the long run).

There is some 'speculation' locally as to its use, with Telecom saying as little as possible. The new station is in direct line of sight with Bishopscourt, and well within the 35 miles necessary for it to be effective. Hence it will link up with the British micro-wave system—via the Isle of Man—and so become another intricate part of the British-American nuclear attack system, and further evidence of the importance of Ireland in the jingoist minds of the military. That it will also improve the color-T.V. reception in this part of remote Down is NOT really what the British government is up to, no matter what they say!!

REIGN IN SPAIN

Everyone has heard of the attempted coup in Spain last week when Lt.Col. Tejero of the Civil Guard, led his troops into the parliament buildings.

But few people are aware of a trial in France, less than a month ago, when some anarchists faced charges which were first brought against them in '74, during the Franco Fascist regime.

They had been accused of complicity in the kidnapping of Spanish banker, Suarez, to demand the release of political prisoners. 'Evidence' was collected by co-operation between the fascist Spanish police and the police of those well known social democratic countries—France and England.

Although the coup failed, and the anarchists were finally freed, it would be wrong to assume that Spain is now a 'new' society. There is no doubt that it is nearer a social democracy than fascism (in political terms) but the recent events beg the question—how great is the difference?

The armed forces, judiciary and administration of fascist Spain have remained relatively undisturbed in the passage to 'democracy'. Only certain sectors have been disgruntled. The Guardia Civil are the equivalent of our UDR and have the same reputation. They fit uncomfortably into the 'social democratic' image of only using the police to deal with opposition but that image is gradually changing.

Also over 100 police resigned when fellow officers were charged with the murder, after torture of a Basque. It seems as if the political parties have successfully managed the transfer of political power, but the whole apparatus in use was created under fascism and generally speaking does the job well—with just a few hiccups

CUTTING OUR OWN THROATS

During the turbulent period of 1919 a cabinet minister Mr Boner Law said 'There was no doubt that many people attribute the present industrial unrest to the lack and poor quality of beer'

The cabinet agreed to authorise an increase in production and in strength while reducing its price. So much for 1919.

Today in ghetto areas we have hundreds of drinking places, state controlled leisure centres, community centres, the slot machine joints and all the other counter insurgent techniques and plans designed to keep us quiet (not to mention TV)

Social clubs at best give the people entertainment in the form of bingo nights, pop music etc.

Even socialist groups who have control of 'social' clubs simply reflect any capitalist owned pub (who are out just to make money) apart from a few slogans. There is little or no attempt to develop any resistance or alternative culture in opposition to 'establishment' type culture designed to reinforce the position and values of our oppressors. There are centres, although sadly not in Belfast. Their emphasis is not on drink but on political education. They show socialist films, put on political plays, have experimental music sessions, lectures debates, exhibitions, alternative comics who don't resort to the usual sexist, racist jokes. They are not interested in people slowly getting stoned but rather in getting people high on ideas.



We live in an exploitative and authoritarian society. It is exploitative because the primary aim of those who own (capitalists) or control (managers) the means of production distribution, and exchange (of food housing, clothing, technology, money, leisure etc.) are motivated by profit, and not need. They are 'in business' to maintain and increase the wealth and power which they possess—not to ensure that the resources are available to satisfy people's needs.

It is also an authoritarian society because the social and political life is administered by the STATE. The state is not a natural phenomena, but one whereby the wealth and power of the ruling class are protected by laws, courts, police prison etc. Increasingly today the state is widening its sphere of influence and power. It has taken over many of the enterprises which are central to the running of society, but which were no longer profitable for capitalism—the post office, public transport...also because power by its very nature, encourages those who have it to gain more, the state is no longer just a protector and administrator for capitalism, it also has interests of its own and has, for example created new 'profitable' industries of its own—oil, gas etc.

The state is composed of a vast bureaucracy of civil servants and administrators, as well as the more public group of politicians. The fact that you put piece of paper marked X into a ballot box every 4 years is called 'democracy'. All we are doing is changing the face of the ruling class without changing the situation whereby we are always ruled, always told what to do.

WHAT IS CRIME

There are two types of crime. The first is the state's definition for those who break its rules, and ours, whereby the state and capitalism themselves are crimes against humanity. They exploit and enforce obedience in order to keep themselves in power.

Because the state and capitalism control the means of communication (newspapers, TV, film, books theatre, etc) it is not too difficult for them to form public opinion. So the state's ideas of what crime is is usually what society accepts.

The laws are made by the politicians (with the real pressure coming from different sections of the ruling class) and they have the means TV etc to persuade us that they are in the 'national interest'. It should be obvious though that the laws are made in the interests of the ruling class—in fact by them.

These laws are enforced by the police and the judiciary and punishment ranges from fines to imprisonment (or the threat of it if you don't behave). These are agencies of the state which we have seen is a power bloc in itself. It can hardly be seen as independent.

Crimes can be divided into two—firstly those which threaten the interests of the ruling class such as bank robberies, illegal strikes, destruction of state property or commercial property etc. The fact that capitalism steals the surplus wealth which workers create, enormous office blocks are built at the expense of public housing is of course not criminal. These crimes against wealth and authority are harshly dealt with by the courts.

The other type of 'crime' is anti-social behaviour. It is important that the state at least pretends to deal with this problem—firstly, because it is a democracy after all! and must be seen to protect its citizens, and secondly, if this behaviour were not dealt with it might interfere with the smooth running of making money and maintaining power. Again it is no coincidence that the anti-social behaviour of capitalism and authority is not dealt with by law.

As for the taking back of wealth stolen from us

THE ROLE OF PRISONS



and the destruction of business or state property we see no crime. But the problem of anti-social behaviour has to be dealt with. Not only is the state's handling of this area counter productive but it ignores and condemns whole aspects of violence.

In fact it creates the conditions of much of today's anti-social behaviour. People have little control over their lives and are alienated from it. The work we perform is not for ourselves or our community, but to sell on the market for profit for the bosses. The decisions as to what type of housing, information, transport etc we want is taken by bureaucracy. Our own role is reduced to asking for favours and permission from these bureaucrats.

Our relationships with each other are conditioned by our relationships to the sources of power and wealth. The fact that our lives are ones of obedience to other powers, affects our social and personal lives. People, whose self respect and creativity has been stolen or squashed by authority, will find it difficult to respect others and form creative relationships. Our anger against authority can be redirected against those who are in immediate contact—relatives, lovers, neighbours etc. So in this sense the existence of the state and capitalism CREATES crime.

If we were to destroy these structures much of the origins of anti social behaviour would be removed. But because our culture has had thousands of years of authoritarian and exploitative relationships and because since birth we are conditioned to accept these, the structures are not just external. We reproduce many of these traits in our own behaviour. This problem will be dealt with later.

ROLE OF PRISONS

The judiciary and police exist both to intimidate most of the population into disobedience and to deal with the small numbers who ignore its laws. There is of course a vast number of capitalists and managers who ignore the laws on tax, land, equality etc, who are not prosecuted. We will not deal with these here as it is not the excesses of capitalism and authority which must be abolished but they themselves.

However, on another occasion we should pay them more attention.

Prisons are the ultimate punishment for those whose crimes are serious or who persist ie: those who attack the values of authority and capital, and those whose repeated anti-social behaviour is embarrassing for the government.

For the first number of people it is obvious that prison is the weapon which the ruling class use to punish those who challenge it. As such prison or 'crime' should not exist because capitalism and the state should not exist. By destroying these, we will automatically destroy the reason for imprisoning these people.

The second group of people we have called anti social. This is because their behaviour is against people who are not one of their sources, or don't benefit from the authoritarian society. Examples are stealing from working class homes or violence against those who become the scapegoat for your own frustrations and alienation such as male violence against women, gang violence, parents beating kids.

The state claims in its laws and propaganda that prison is there to deter and rehabilitate these people. Anyone who has been inside or who has friends inside or who cares to do a little research will know that prison does neither.

It doesn't deter those who have already made the first move to defy authority and especially in the present recession with unemployment soaring and cuts in welfare benefits, people's frustrations are deepening. That violent expression of frustration and alienation is the product of life conditioning a more powerful force than the external threat of imprisonment.

Prison doesn't rehabilitate either. Because primarily it doesn't even try. Education and training facilities inside are so meagre as to discourage anyone trying. Even if facilities were to be improved they wouldn't begin to effect the reasons for anti social behaviour. In fact prison is a symptom of the society which creates such behaviour in the first place. The only effect re-

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abilitation could have is to produce an individual who accepted his/her alienation and powerlessness to produce a good citizen.

ALTERNATIVES

The only conclusion we can reach for the long term is a social revolution. We must destroy the state, patriarchy (male power) and capitalism, and replace it with a libertarian society, where individuals groups, communities control their own lives (work, social sexual) and federate on a voluntary basis with other groups to improve the quality of life. By such a revolution many of the conditions which produce inequality alienation and authority will be removed.

But as well as working towards some future event or series of events we must begin now. We must start to create libertarian relationships in social and personal life now. The centuries of conditioning leave their residue of competitiveness and domination in all of our personalities, not only in present authoritarian society, but even were a social revolution to be successful.

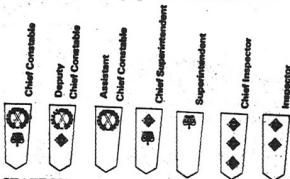
It is particularly difficult to create alternatives to prison in this society. Some attempts have been made in England (RAP) where they offer facilities for those coming out of prison to regain their self respect, but we should be wary of such efforts being recuperated by the state to put a humane face on its prisons policies. Our aim (and I am sure RAP is aware of this) is not to become a welfare agency but to oppose and campaign for the abolition of prisons.

In future society the problems of anti social behaviour may still exist. Violence against other people destruction of their labour and undermining of their cooperation may occur. How these will be handled will depend on the circumstances of both the event and the general society.

If resources are stretched and little energy free, banishment from the community or retribution in the form of helping in the work of the victim are two possibilities depending on the severity and repetition of such behaviour.

But probably more important is the question of who decides. One prospect is the gathering of all the people concerned and their friends (social, work etc) and the arbitration of the dispute by someone who both people accept and trust. The primary aim of such a meeting would be for the two to immediately involved to reach an agreement after explanation and debate. But in the event of no solution the arbitrator would have to make a decision which would be binding insofar as both people accepted the arbitrator.

These of course are only tentative solutions and cannot replace the importance of a change in attitudes and relationships as being the best hope for undermining anti social behaviour.



STRATEGY

In the constant work towards creating a social revolution, particular repressive institutions are given priority for both exposure of conditions and resistance to their development. One institution is of course prison. Up to now the campaign against excesses—such as isolation 'criminalisation'—The problem with these is that they don't get to the root of the problem and they can be recuperated. In fact, if won, may even improve the image of prisons. So in our propaganda and political work we should attack in ways which cannot be turned against our eventual aim. While we may be involved in certain reformist activities such as providing books, campaigning for political status, etc thought should be given to tactics which don't make specific demands but hit home at the nature of prisons.

HOUSING SHOW BUSINESS

TIME Feb 1981

PLACE Lower Ormeau (could be any redevelopment area)
OCCASION Housing meeting
CAST Housing Executive, SDLP and Alliance councillors, catholic priest, local housing association, chairperson, architect and builder
Department of the Environment, 60 local residents.

On entering a large room in the Church of the Word of God (honest) we were confronted by three slide screens and dignatories from public life. Although this was supposed to be an AGM of the local Housing Association to discuss the years developments and reflect a committee it was soon evident that this was a public relations job. The chairperson had presumably invited the big wigs to answer questions and the audience were caught unawares. (Does this circus travel to other areas as well).

Cooke, from Alliance, gave a short political party broadcast and was applauded (do some people also clap a pph on tv?) McDonnell from SDLP didn't stay long enough to get his speech in (so he must be confident enough of reselection in the City Council in May) the builders firm Taggart, sent along two smooth talkers, Savage and Whiteside (who if Taggarts were a political party would surely make it to the European Parliament) the DOE representative Devlin was a bit uncertain in thought. Although his office (the area office) was one of liaison between the DOE and the public he had no knowledge of the main departments such as water, roads, lights and neither had he the more important attribute of pretending to know.

These performers were compered by the Master of Ceremonies our very own chairperson, who invited questions, problems and points of view. Damp, condensation, low water pressure etc. were all dealt with individually, and if the resident proved unsatisfied and persistent there was a personal assurance that the builder/architect would personally come round and see the house in person—Would you take that person's name down Mr Chairman and remind me to pay them a visit next week? An older man at the back who suggested the redeveloped houses in Essex Street were better off before and would be better off now demolished didn't get a reply but an embarrassed silence.

The Housing Executive had two speakers (plus at least three other backers). The first Bass, tried his best to wriggle out of complaints about incompetence but wasn't self confident (slippery) enough to carry it off. But the biscuit must go to Williamson the manager of the local area office in Ann St. He didn't even try to play the game and brushed objections and problems aside by implying we were lucky to have houses at all.

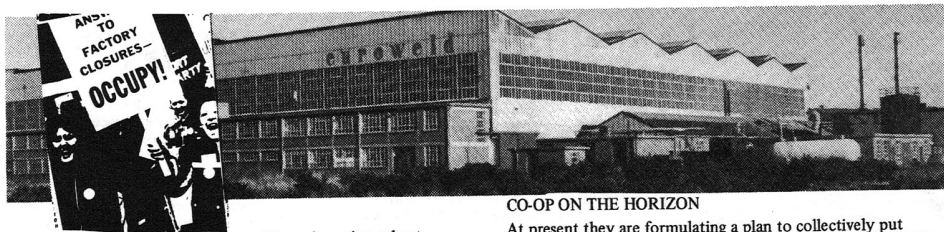
To a slight degree the builders and councillors are conscious of public reaction; the latter increasingly because of the May elections the former are operating an open market (open to corruption) and subject to competition from other firms for contracts so they must at least respond to the dissatisfied tenant. But the Housing Executive have a monopoly over public housing and judging by Williamson don't give a shit about such a puny derelict area as the Lower Ormeau. The HE are an underfinanced and over bureaucratic wing of the state and get stick day in and day out. They, of course don't confront the problems but employ a vast workforce who delect, discourage and placate frustrated tenant. Poor Williamson must be fed up; and after all is only human—I wonder does he bleed?

Newberry—no, not a poisonous fruit—is the local Catholic priest who controls the state financed community facilities (youth club nursery etc) and is leading contender for boss of the proposed new community centre. He appeared half way through the meeting and was called by the chairperson to share the small platform with him—which he did beaming; and embarrassingly laughed at a satirical joke on one of the builders because everyone else laughed. He said nothing but took it all in and helped reinforce people's alienation from their OWN meeting and the chance to discuss THEMSELVES what to do with the area.

On several occasions I nearly spoke—I nearly shouted—I nearly attacked Cooke et al. But what I did was leave half way through. The meeting was too vague to come to terms with. What was the point of talking to arrogant slime like the councillors, builders, HE? It was the residents I wanted to talk to, to say—if we want to discuss our own business and our tactics than we don't invite this lot (they don't invite us to their planning meetings) We should be collectively deciding what's wrong with the area, who caused it what needs to be done, and how we can do it. We don't need the ritual of voting in a committee who would be impotent in the 'dialogue' with professional talkers from the HE. We ALL have the responsibility to make the changes we want in the area, and should n't delegate that responsibility to a committee who always accept the rules of the HE: and who anyway especially that night became a show piece so the HE can say we will always consult you.

But I said nothing. I left and realised probably why only 60 out of a couple of thousand bothered to turn up. The whole range of counter insurgents were there (priests councillors, community workers and HE hacks) and I didn't want to advertise myself as a subversive because I do want to subvert to resist their plans for control over us.

H BLOCK	H BLOCK	H BLOCK	H BLOCK
ON THE DOLE	R U C	SHIT ON WALLS	ALWAYS LOSE
H BLOCK	H BLOCK	H BLOCK	H BLOCK
HELL HOLE	BRUTALITY	KICK ON BALLS	BASTARD SCREWS
H BLOCK	H BLOCK	H BLOCK	H BLOCK
BRITISH ARMY	TO ENDURE	OBSCENE	MEN SO BRAVE
H BLOCK	H BLOCK	H BLOCK	H BLOCK
BLOODY 'BALMY'	TORTURE	STEAM CLEAN	COULD BE THEIR GRAVE
H BLOCK	H BLOCK	H BLOCK	H BLOCK
PROTESTED	NO TRANSGRESSION	SHITTY GRUB	IN A PAR
H BLOCK A	H BLOCK	H BLOCK	H BLOCK
ARRESTED	SIGNED 'CONFESSION'	H BLOCK	WITH ARMAGH
H BLOCK	H BLOCK	H BLOCK	BLANKET MEN
CASTLEREAGH	GUILTY SURELY	VISIT HOURS	H BLOCK
H BLOCK	H BLOCK	H BLOCK	WIN IN END
HERE TO STAY	WITH NO JURY	LEFT WITH SCARS	WIN IN END



The occupation of the Euroweld engineering plant still continues after six weeks and despite the fact that the security guards were able to lock the workers out one night when no one was actually occupying (oops)!

TRADE UNIONS USELESS

So far the occupation has received no official union backing and the workers have never even received on single visit from any trade union official.

Before the firm went bust, the officials were brought up to negotiate about future lay offs and at every stage sided with the managements recommendations which the workers resisted.

All this is not surprising when you consider the bureaucrats in charge of the unions. Periodically they are wheeled in front of television, Carlin, Hull and company and condemn the latest unemployment figures and closures but they are the last to support any action against unemployment. In the Euroweld occupation they have deliberately misled other trade unionists as they see any stand against unemployment as undermining their bankrupt ideas and passive position and threatening their cushy jobs.

WORKERS ARE NOT BLAMELESS

It is not surprising however that these appointed bureaucrats get away with it when you look at the trade union membership as a whole. Most people who belong to a trade union do so only because they need a card to hold a job. They are apathetic to any trade union involvement and leave the running of it to a small clique. Times are changing and people will have to consider the consequences of their inactivity and reliance on leaders, the consequence of which is a complete demoralisation against fighting unemployment.

SOLIDARITY

Workers should consider the various ways so that they can directly fight unemployment. Especially the thousands of workers that surround the Euroweld plant, for it is they who can give the most immediate support to the Euroweld occupation. So far it has been only individuals.

EVERYONE FOR THEMSELVES

The technicians and staff of Euroweld have foolishly taken the firms side even when they have been exploited and are without jobs as any manual worker. They have deserted the 140 workers who have chosen to occupy.

MOTIVATION

The Euroweld workers are highly trained and would have no difficulty in finding a job elsewhere (except maybe for the shop stewards who would be victimised). Their product (producing tanks for containment of substances such as gases etc) is made nowhere else in Britain and they see their task as keeping their skills within Northern Ireland whereas closure would probably mean the loss of these skills.

CO-OP ON THE HORIZON

At present they are formulating a plan to collectively put their redundancy money together and buy the plant themselves and turn it into a workers co-operative. They believe they have enough orders to make the company viable. (Although no doubt living in a capitalist society hostile to any form of workers self management would have problems). So far the receiver has given them no assistance although he has given information to other potential buyers.

If setting up a co-op is a last ditch attempt through not finding a buyer, as a means of just holding onto jobs, then it will probably adopt the same roles and structure that existed under their previous employer. To see a co-op as not only an alternative to the capitalist system but a challenge to it, and not just economically, is by far the most visionary. The workers are bound not simply through working for the same 'firm' but by the idea of creating a better, freer society for themselves and others.

They work collectively taking decisions together producing or selling a product which is socially useful, relating and sharing skills. This shared work experience without the need for leaders can contribute to the confidence of the individual and the group. Sex roles and sexism are broken down. Wages are based on what a person needs and gives what they can. Surplus money gained is not seen as the co-ops private funds. The workers have a responsibility to use the surplus in a productive way for the benefit of the community and not themselves personally.

There will obviously be limitations that the militant co-ops will suffer from. They are surrounded by capitalist enterprises who constantly service them. If the co-ops pose any real threat it would be very easy to isolate and destroy it.

STATES POLICIES

It is unlikely that the Thatcher government will step in and pay off the creditors and provide money to restart the firm. They are more prepared to give money to tried and tested capitalists like De Lorean or O'Neill the original owner of Euroweld. He was given the grants to pay for the machinery and the new extension, (even at the opening of the new extension they knew the firm was sliding into trouble) and at one time most of the workforce were receiving wage subsidies from the state.

KEEP CLEAR: STATE AT WORK

If the workers do manage to form a co-op out of Euroweld hopefully they could do it with as few strings attached to the state as possible, the state were largely responsible for the legal rip off and results in the first place.

Any state interference in the running of the factory would only mean exchanging one set of incompetent bosses for another.

HELP

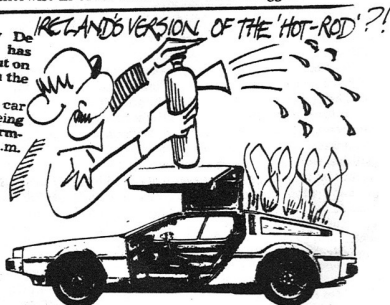
Right now the Euroweld workers are looking for support, financial or otherwise in order to continue their struggle.

In the ritual slaughter method shown at the plant the steer was placed in a revolving drum with its head turned on its back and its throat was presented for the slaughterman's knife. One cut only was required. A leading member of the Belfast Jewish community, Mr. John Kay told councillors at the plant that the ritual method, without stunning, was a strict requirement for members of his faith.

A SALVATION Army appeal for film to help London's jobless, launched yesterday by the Duke of Westminster, was himself thought to be the Britain's wealthiest man.

MR. ADAM Butler, un-Industry Minister, has turned down a new proposal from Mr. John De Lorean, who suggested the Government forego debt repayments and royalties on its £70m aid to the sports car venture for a period of four years.

ONE of the new De Lorean sports cars has come to grief while out on a pre-dawn test run in the Glens of Antrim. The silver skinned car caught fire while being driven on the Glencarm-yesterday.



"MASS LAWLESSNESS" IN ZURICH

Over the past few weeks, there has been a fresh outbreak of "mass lawlessness" in Zurich, following the events of last year, as outlined in this article (translated from the French magazine, Agora), which rocked the previously 'calm boat' of the Swiss state.

The Zurich youth have been waiting for 10 years for the finance from the Authorities, necessary in order to open the "Rote Fabrik" (Red Factory), an autonomous culture and leisure centre. In 1977, the people of the city voted in favour of the project but in May 1980, no changes had been made to make available the building.

On the 30th. May last, tired of waiting for the 8 million Swiss francs necessary for the renovation of the "Opera" (the bourgeois culture certainly rushes things!) credits finally voted for on the 8th. of June - tired therefore of being fucked about/ ignored, hundreds of youth assembled in front of the Opera on the occasion of a premiere, facing an extremely hardened police. The next day, a second demonstration was charged by the police: broken windows, doors beaten down, fires started, new arrests and even more injured!

These two days were the "spark to light the fire" (bulletin of birth) of a movement which has kept in operation ever since. On the 4th. June, there was a general meeting where film was shown of the police brutalities, a film which was banned the next

day by the public education chief.....the two students who made the film were hounded, which provided the extension of the movement into the schools and universities. On the 9th. June, the film was shown at the university in front of 2-3,000 students. The demonstration in the town is broken up and ends with further confrontations with the police.

Two days later, a massive demonstration of 4,000 people is held; the police, present with all their anti-riot paraphernalia, intervene...Finally, on the 28th. June, the council gives in, "the young people shall have their centre", but the Socialist Party, which acted as mediator will be the principal agent in the building and, in fact, would control everything!

On the 2nd. July, the city opens the "autonomous" centre, but during the night of 12-13 July, 6,000 people go onto the streets. There, the movement goes further than the theme of an autonomous centre. Having taken "No power for anyone" as a slogan, the demonstrators pass in front of the city hall, shouting "Make cucumber salad of the state!" Attacked by the police, the demonstrators take a different direction: a veritable night of barricades.

After a brief summers break, the movement starts up again and expands. At first, a demonstration in Berne demands the creation of an autonomous centre there. In Zurich, on August 30th, 1,000 demonstrators

have to suffer as the police charge yet again. A second night of barricades occurs yet again on the night of 6-7th. September. But taking the pretext of the continuance of the troubles as a pretext, the council decides, not to dismantle the existing riot squads, but to close the "autonomous" centre. On the 10th. Sept, this provocation brings about a further night of barricades. Two days later, the pigs, once again, spread disorder in the centre of Zurich....

At first being relatively isolated, this movement grows from demonstration to demonstration. It was capable of furnishing itself with structures open for all to express themselves in, but also with an infrastructure which was put to the test during these past months, like the general meetings, or even the pirate radios, particularly useful at the time of the confrontations in order to inform on the police manoeuvres. Up until now, these young protesters have continued to ridicule the authorities. Thus, on 2nd July, two councillors who made the mistake of accepting a television debate against two of the protesters, had to face two young people who kept mocking and axing their interventions on the theme "we must shoot all young people!..."

Let us point out in our conclusion that the Zurich Anarchist movement plays an active role in this struggle with a libertarian character, and also that some comrades have a fair few problems as a result (fines, court cases etc....).

BRITS AND PIECES

The INLA are held responsible for the continuing existence of left opportunist MP Anthony Wedgewood Benn. According to the New Statesman Airey Neave had planned in 1979 with ex MI5 agents Benn's assassination if a left Labour Party came to power. The choice between Benn and Neave must be difficult!

Tara Mines are one of the two remaining mining companies in Donegal, successfully to get a renewal of their licence to mine for uranium from the Department of Industry, Commerce and Tourism. This was despite the local opposition, including a resolution against such a renewal by the County Council.

AMSTERDAM

Dear Friends,

The squat here is rapidly coming together, we had to completely renew the electrics and are now pointing and putting in the windows. It used to belong to Hans Prell, but now by a big builder, who is determined to get us out. He already got in once but the place was re-possessed, his Mercedes wrecked and his ladder thrown in the canal, there are plenty of squats here and they are quite well organised, though we have had recently two defeats—the Grote Wetering, 5 houses together, which were taken with the help of 2000 riot police tanks, dogs, horses, the lot. Greatly enjoyed the subsequent riot and the As organised some good direct actions round the fringes. Its quite different here—all about propaganda and play battles, though with the recession the state is moving quickly to the right.

MIKE

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Sermon on the mount
So what's new—that's history
Flash in the dark—reported mystery
The great man booms a new account—
Hellfire, arms and a dammed nation
Statements sweeping, jailing and some gnashing teeth—

To be certified or 'armless—false or otherwise?
Sermon on the mount
The price of peace or war
Five hundred heads on discount
As one body trained by whistle
Licenced dogs of war unleash a legalised epistle
In waves hearts flutter Paisley patterns
White papers flap on windy words
And other summit talks.....

M@lkuth

DENMARK

Dear Friends,
Many thanks for the Outta Controls you send me. Shit, the situation is real terrible in the prisons. It was covered quite well in Danish newspapers, but not in the way which can help the H Block prisoners. I hope that other european countries can put pressure on England to change its repression in Northern Ireland.

On the action side we are concentrating on the French nuclear tests, the repression of French polynesia and the development of the nuclear Free Pacific (on Ferenca).

WEST OF THE BANN

HEIN

Dear Sir,

I am a fifteen year old who has realised how it is not worth the bother of studying for O levels as I will reduce myself to a mindless run of the mill citizen. I don't want a job in which I'll feel like a caged animal "I wanna be me" (Sex Pistols song as if you didn't know). So, while listening to some Crass record I spotted this address and here I am. DAVID

Armchair adventure with The World's Wild Places
an incredible series from



OUTTA CONTROL

NON CENSUS DAY

April 5th. is census day, and by then every house in N.I., Scotland, England, and Wales will be issued with census forms. Information sought includes details of our home, our work, our relationships, our education, our transport methods, and how these have all changed over the years.

Responsibility for the census collection and the information is supposedly held by the Registrar General, of the Dept. of Finance. However, he is directly responsible to the Secretary of State, H. Atkins. The 'collated' results will be computerised, and stored at the Computer Services Division of the Civil Service at Stormont. The results are reported as being for the use of central and local govt., social researchers, the health and education services, market researchers and industrialists, though there is supposedly a 'confidentiality clause' whereby no individual can be identified either by direct access to the computer data, or by cross-referencing by outsiders. However, as we shall see, all this is rather dubious, a mere ploy to get us to fill in the form in the first place.

The first British census was taken in 1801, and the first year of every decade since. The purpose of the 1801 census was to enable the government of the day to assess their potential military strength, to evaluate the cannon-fodder readily available at a time when European govt.s, were lining up for or against Napoleon. (Since 1801, most Western industrialised states have some form of census, now officially sanctioned by the United Nations.)

Nowadays, the interests of social welfare and civic responsibility are stressed with the military and internal security uses played down.

The previous census in 1971 was the first to be computerised and was based on ordnance survey 1 mile squares. In 1981, however, with the rapid growth of computer technology, the units of reference are much smaller, 100 square metres in rural areas and 1 square metre in the towns and cities. Quite precise details of our existence is thus being collected on April 5th (though the question on religion is voluntary, kept in at the request of nosy social scientists)... but the uses to which this information can and will be put leave us with no choice but to somehow subvert this state collection.

WHY AND HOW?

Firstly the record of all governments but particularly the British on computer data—its storage and uses—leaves much to be desired. Data banks—with information on our lives and habits are held by the government services, the security industry and private industry. British governments here consistently refused to implement any sort of data protection law ie: there are absolutely no safeguards as to what information exists on data banks, how it got there or the uses to which it was put. A Data Protection Committee was set up in 1978 to look into this very problem and its report in December of that year outlined a whole series of provisions aimed at controlling the abuse of the data banks of information, the most important provision was for anyone to be able to find out just what information was held on them on computers. Not surprisingly the government ignored the report. Again in 1981 a set of international guidelines have just been published by organisation for economic co-operation and development, and Council of Europe. The drafted convention is to be signed by European states, but even though the British government helped set out the proposals it is not yet committed to signing. Change in the British system is possible in the near future (mainly because of pressure by multi-national computer firms who fear that the British government sanctioning of computer abuses is destroying confidence in computer technology) but is most unlikely to cover all the Council of Europe proposed legislation: data should be collected lawfully with knowledge of those concerned; data used only for specific and legal purposes; data should be available to individuals. The government uses of computers is not to be hampered by silly liberal laws concerning privacy. It has much greater uses and the best that could be hoped for is that the government would set up another bit of bureaucratic authority which alone would handle access to the information and the data banks and then only covering private data banks not what they currently hold. Not a particularly reassuring situation as we shall see.

Take for instance the new computerised electronic mail facility which began operation in June 1980 with a link

between Britain and Canada. It has now been localised, and a link between Northern Ireland and Britain was set up in February of this year with facilities at the Post Office HQ in Belfast. Users can send data information from computer to computer but codes can be used IF AND ONLY IF THE GOVERNMENT IS PROVIDED WITH A KEY. In effect this entails the government getting a copy of all this essentially private data information all of which can be transferred onto SB or army computers. No wonder the government and the security industry are so unwilling for people to know just how much is kept on us all.

THE SECURITY INDUSTRY AND COMPUTERS

In 1971 the Army and Police were beginning their computerisation of the entire population of Northern Ireland. The past ten years such communications—information technology has seen an ever increasing boom with industry, government bureaucracy and state security employing it at will, the only restraint being the rapidly developing level of the technology. Such technology can now hold much more information retrieve and carry it at a much faster rate. Like wise it is possible to break computer links to obtain confidential files. If this can be done by outsiders—apparent novices—what can be done by the giant sophisticated computer operated by the British Army at Lisburn which currently holds 65% of us on its files? The somewhat spurious safeguards about the census existing in Britain do not even apply here...the Register General and all that data handled up in Stormont by the CS is answerable only to Atkins.

The security industry in Britain (SB, MI5, MI6) can claim information on the basis of national security in Northern Ireland, all information is subject to the catch all phrase... 'subject to the overriding requirements for dealing with terrorism'. Like phone tapping, letter opening if that means census information going to Lisburn as well as Stormont so be it. It can be done without the CS even knowing so filling in a census form is just like registering with the BA at Lisburn. (There is even the possibility of ID cards based on a computer-indexed numbers—the census is a vital step in this direction). Data from the census can be combined with other computer data, it can be transferred from one information system to another. Such cross checking can reveal yet further stores of information for the state data banks. Who can stop the census information from getting into the hands of the Lisburn collater? Who can stop them cross checking with the DHSS computer?

So successful has the army's use of the computer been in Northern Ireland that the British Army in Europe now uses a computerised message system for manoeuvres. Developed by Plessey at the cost of £6m it means that infantry can send information to each other via radio links, though picked up by mobile computer terminals. Also again in Belfast, not only is information kept on as much of the population as possible, but a computer at Belfast telephone exchange is used to monitor literally hundreds of phone calls.

So it is not a good idea to be filling in that form on April 5th, no matter who you are. It is rather spurious to emphasise our civic responsibility and how social welfare, transport planning etc can be covered much more efficiently. If social planning was the aim, wouldn't something have been done this past 200 years? Do we need to build up computer files to know that our transport system kills, our welfare services are crumbling, our education system is sectarian nonsense? The census will not help these. Nor can it be justified by statisticians so called social historians...a very weak argument for an increase in state security so that academics can talk to themselves. The function of the census is for the state bureaucracy and state security to increase its information and hence its power over us. It doesn't seem to make such sense merely to refuse to fill in the form, wait to get prosecuted (over 400 prosecutions in 1971...a mere £10 fine, but a refusal to pay the fine means jail)..... thats much too reminiscent of the Rent and Rates Strike of the early 70s when politicians encouraged a strike only to leave people suffering under the Payment for Debt Act many years later. There are other ways to subvert it:

- (i) there is no form date for handing back the forms...delaying until the last minute is a start.
- (ii) the form doesn't have a built in lie detector...so there is no good reason why any information given has to be accurate
- (iii) the best loop hole is to say that you were somewhere else on April 5th and April 6th...technically you should fill in the form and that other address...and if everyone in your house was 'away' for those two days, there is no reason why your house should be returning a form at all...now is there?

Gaining Ground

Outta Control Women's Supplement

The right to vote, or equal civil rights, may be good demands, but true emancipation begins neither at the polls, nor in courts. It begins in woman's soul. History tells us that every oppressed class gained true liberation from its masters through its own efforts. It is necessary that woman learn that lesson, that she realise that her freedom will reach as far as her power to achieve her freedom reaches.

EMMA GOLDMAN 1911

WOMEN'S ACTION CONFERENCE

Last weekend (Feb 27th-March 1st) the Women's Action Group at Queens University held a women's conference. The conference was designed to talk about issues of concern to women and was divided up into lectures and workshops.

By all accounts the conference was a big success, and the women's action group were commended for their good organisation and the good atmosphere, that was created over the weekend.

The conference opened on Friday evening with a session on violence—about 25-35 women took part with the speakers from Women's Aid and the Association for Legal Justice, and a wide ranging discussion developed about male violence, state violence and their relation to women.

On Saturday there were many workshops and lectures on issues like health, images of women and body awareness. Special mention should be made of a session on sex-stereotyping in education led by Sandra Griffiths, which was stimulating and very well received. Later in the day the workshops on sexuality also provided friendly and stimulating discussion over a wide range of related subjects.

On Sunday evening the conference continued with sessions on work, welfare and later in the day a very interesting session on politics. Jennifer Fitzgerald on CND

spoke about the damages of nuclear power in particular for women and children—it made for harrowing listening. Later there was a discussion on imperialism which provoked lively debate—one woman spoke of her involvement in women against imperialism before its break up and the problems of working with groups which were not necessarily feminist. This led to a wide ranging discussion on the autonomy of the women's movement generally.

All in all the conference was enjoyed by all who attended lets hope that the women's action group go on to build on these firm foundations.

DOCTOR IN COURT

Dr Harvey Jackson was released on continuing bail on Monday 2nd March, after pleading not guilty to the manslaughter of Charlotte

Hutton on June 27th 1979. He also pleaded not guilty to two charges of procuring miscarriages in 1979, but guilty to five further charges of procuring miscarriages. Jackson was arrested last May on these charges, and has been out on bail ever since. We do not know if he was responsible for the death of Charlotte Hutton, but what we do know is that if legal abortions were available to all women in Northern Ireland then Charlotte might not have died in the way she did and the services of Jackson and others involved in backstreet abortions would not be required. The media in Northern Ireland, and the establishment would do well to consider that fact instead of using it as an excuse to start a witch hunt for backstreet abortionists!

STATUS: Newsmagazine for women

The first issue of Status appeared this month, produced in the South. The most obvious drawback about Status is that it has not come from the Irish feminist movement and although its content may change if more and more women write articles for it, it is at present aimed up market, for the more professional types.

The editorial talks of the 'bad old days when there was no Equal Pay Act, no contraception, little or no childcare facilities and no protective family law at all'—it's not exactly a feminist paradise down south—most people would give it credit for being the most socially backward country in Europe.

Its good to see more emphasis on rural women and in future we hope to see more emphasis on poorer women rather than the wives of substantial farmers.

Graphically the magazine is poor—the two full colour features are devoted to an Interior-dream kitchen/sitting room and a fashion feature—a made to order dress in hand painted crepe de chine, price unknown—if Status is going to splash out on four colour work lets have it in the articles on women and not on the look

that society would have us aspire to, and can we be more discriminating about the advertising? What's the difference between the ads on the No Comment page and page 35 'Saving Makes the Difference' (where Superman comes to the rescue and saves a tied up woman on a railway line and another carries a limp body of a woman away). If I had any savings it definitely wouldn't be going into that bank if it had to rely on Superman anyway!

Status has a place in raising women's issues but there is still a gap there for an all Ireland feminist magazine—its doubtful if Status will ever fill that gap.

EXTRACT FROM LETTER

....I went to the Women's Conference called by Status magazine yesterday. It was pretty appalling as expected. A series of resolutions and demands for politicians to implement. The only two things which stick out in my mind from the day were 1) that both motions on supporting the Armagh women fell through there were few voted directly against them an enormous majority abstained from voting. Rita O Hare and Ann O'Brien both spoke

for the motions, no one spoke against them but the whole thing was a fiasco.

What made it more of a fiasco was that a motion calling for more contact between women in the north and south was passed by a big majority. The voting was all by show of hands. One woman said one of the reasons the vote for the Armagh women was so small (perhaps 40 out of 600) was because of the way the last support campaign was run by Sinn Fein. I don't really accept this though. It was all very disappointing, to say the least. The other thing that sticks in my mind was the applause I got when I said that women had to stop making demands on politicians who had no interest in doing anything for women and begin to do things on our own. However the chances to speak from the floor were minimal. It's a shame for you could feel the potential there....Its given me food for thought.

We would like any woman who wants to make comments, write articles/small news items, coming events to contact us at C/o 7 Winetavern Street, Belfast 1. Tel: 25426

A LOOK AT THE

This is the first of what is likely to become a feature of *Outta Control*—a women's supplement. At present there are no women's papers being produced in the North and we hope this will go some way to filling the gap until a new women's paper appears.

For this issue we are looking briefly at some of the issues the women's movement have raised and will go into them in depth in later issues.

WORK

To work in our society means to be exploited, to be controlled by other people, to have little say in how we spend a large amount of our time. To be unemployed is also be exploited—it means being stigmatised, called a scrounger, yet having a pittance on which to survive. In neither case can you win unless you are the boss or the government.

But within the world of work there are some jobs which are more desirable than others because they are cleaner, or the hours are shorter for the basic rate, or the money is better—for the most part in the work situation women end up in the bottom scales—they are likely to be working in low paid jobs (cleaning, catering, factories, nursing) as unskilled workers and in part time work (least protected workers).

Women workers are also hardest hit by the recession and more likely to be unemployed. But because if they are married they receive no benefits, less likely to sign on.

Why do women end up in this situation? Partly because of lack of encouragement in school and at home to go on and get qualifications because their destiny is seen as marriage and partly because most higher positions in the workforce hierarchy are held by men who largely don't take women seriously because women's first responsibility is always seen as the home and not the workplace.

The women's movement sees women's access to the workplace on equal terms with men as important because only when women have economic independence can they act as individuals in their own right. The campaigns for the Equal Pay Act and Sex Discrimination Act were attempts to change the position of women in society especially in the workplace but after 5 years in operation they have done precious little for women because they were full of loopholes and because laws change nothing when society's bosses don't really want to change...all the two acts did was to keep women quiet for a while.

Perhaps though we should be asking do we want to be equal to men in exploitation—do we want to produce useless goods like nuclear weapons or power plants that are going to destroy not only ourselves but the human race and probably all life on this planet, or to mine asbestos or any of the other materials likely to kill us.

Asking for equality in the workplace is only a temporary reform—real equality comes when all socially useful activity is regarded as work and rewarded equally. That means that childcare, housework, cleaning the roads are seen as just as im-

portant and as useful to society as brain surgery or whatever—which means a new type of society.

Reforms in the workplace will help some women and men but ultimately only real change will mean equality.

CHILDCARE

There are still only five full day care nurseries for the under fives in Northern Ireland, all of them privately run. There are few registered child minders, less than 5% of under fives nursery school places and no hope for any improvement in the future. Legislation like the Employment Protection Acts and Sex Discrimination Act is hardly a gain for women if there are no childcare facilities.

Women have to rely heavily on relatives, neighbours and friends to look after their young children. They enrol them early into primary school (70% of 4 year olds in primary school) enslaving them in a daily schedule which is too much to expect from such young children or any child for that matter. At a time when they should be playing co-operatively together, sharing skills, experiences, tantrums and tears, they are deposit boxes for formal studies, competitiveness and individualism.

PROPOSED DAY CARE CENTRES

The Lower Crescent group are still waiting funding to start their day care centre and the proposed Markets day care centre hasn't opened yet although having received an EEC grant it looks more hopeful!

CONTRACEPTIVES

Available free yet not freely available.

Different religions, notably Catholicism, have a strong line on this issue and this is reflected in the views of Northern Irish women. Although under the British health service, contraceptives are free to anyone over the age of sixteen, in Northern Ireland, knowledge of contraception and how to get it is poor: sex education in schools or in the home is at best confined to the biology class and usually non-existent, many believing it encourages 'sex before marriage' and sleeping around. The number of unwanted pregnancies and women going to England for abortions rises each year.

The Catholic church with its eunuch priests and its nuns educate girls in some Catholic secondary schools on why contraception is wrong and most Catholic schools show films on abortion and the 'murdering of innocent babies'.

Catholicism pervades other areas of family planning as well. In Newry, for example, there are only one or two chemists who sell contraceptives over the counter and Catholic doctors opposed to contraception are not forthcoming with help and advice: there is only one family planning clinic in a population of Women all over Northern Ireland are generally referred to the Health clinics and FPA clinics by their GPs who are often ill informed on contraceptive methods and what is best for the individual woman, irrespective of the doctor's religion.

DEMANDS OF THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT



There is no safe and effective contraceptive. What with more research on the pill, IUD, various suppositories and creams, and the research on the rhythm method which concludes that a higher percentage of abnormal babies are born using this method because the woman has conceived at the end of the "unsafe" period when the egg is old and deteriorating, we are constantly aware of the risks we are taking with our own bodies. Yet when we complain to our doctors, we are treated as neurotic and unco-operative patients—how many times I have been asked if I am a nurse!—even though medical research is proving us to be right all along.

There has only ever been one self help group in Belfast (in the early 70s) and there is an increasing need for more where we can share our problems, exchange treatments and support each other.

ABORTION

Abortion is a topic not often discussed in Northern Ireland. At the present time abortion is illegal here except in a few very narrow cases and most women wanting abortion must travel to England meaning extra worry and more money—around £200 for travel, accommodation, counselling and abortion. For many this is often impossible and women either have the child, or, go to the backstreet. Eighteen months ago one woman Charlotte Hutton, died as a result of such an abortion, and many women have faced complications or sterility in the same situation. Other women have abandoned their babies shortly after birth—in the last year 3 babies (all dead) have been discovered abandoned here—one can only guess at the anguished and dreadful situation of women who feel forced to abandon their babies in this way.

Until there is 100% effective contracep-

tion a woman's control of her own fertility will need the back up of abortion services. But a real choice will only exist when women can have children without stigma, when having a child will not affect your work/career, your very being. Today abortion is often a necessity because of the pressures of having a child alone, of having little money (single parents are one of the largest single poverty groups), or the impossibility of keeping one more child in a larger family.

The women's movement is not advocating abortion for every woman BUT CHOICE—every child a wanted child, every mother a willing mother, in a society which genuinely cares for and has responsibilities towards its children not just paying these phrases lip service, but in a material way.

EDUCATION

Education is a form of social control. It is designed to educate children to the 'right' values of society—to make them obedient, to respect authority, to keep good time—all of these will be useful in later life when they go to work or set up families and pass the values down to their children.

Education also passes on values about behaviour especially the behaviour expected of boys and girls—boys to be masculine, girls feminine, and although most children do arrive in primary one with already formed ideas about boys and girls—education will spend the next 11 years reinforcing and underlining those ideas.

If you look at reading books like Peter and Jane, Janet and John, the girls are always the passive ones, they are always looking at John or Peter DOING things and help Mummy in the house while the boys have fun. In the classroom, teachers reinforce this by getting the girls to do traditionally feminine jobs like cleaning the tables and clearing away whilst the boys lift the milkcrates, rearrange the tables etc. This all extends into lessons so

that by 15-16 boys are far more likely to do applied and scientific subjects and girls to go for the arts or languages. In exams though girls generally get higher passes in O and A levels, less go onto university and further education although they have the ability.

In recent years due to pressure schools have tried to break these barriers down but education REFLECTS the society in which it is found and to that end, our education mirrors a largely sexist, hierarchical, competitive and exploitative society—again without a real change in society, change in education with any real meaning is impossible.

VIOLENCE

Why do men have so much contempt for women?

Take domestic violence: its brutal. Women are beaten up or are threatened with a beating. They are harassed and humiliated and often weapons are used. Two women were beaten to death in Belfast last year.

Take rape: women are seen to be asking for it. They invite rape by being "feminine young and blonde", a myth perpetuated by male society and played up by the press.

Take women prisoners: they have been beaten, slapped about the head with threats of sexual humiliation to gain so called 'confessions'. They are denied proper medical care, (a couple of sanitary towels for each period), proper ante-natal care, harassment and humiliation from male screws.

It is too easy to blame the system—men are exploited, alienated so they take it out on women or he was unemployed, lived in bad housing and got in with the wrong crowd etc etc. This view legitimizes the myth that only the underprivileged assault women. Men of all ages, of all classes, all positions in society including that of power over other men, assault all women. Violence against women is a universal and age old behaviour. All men have the power to terrorise women in our society—to this extent they are each responsible for their own acts of violence.

Women's Aid

There are now 4 refuges in Northern Ireland and they are all overcrowded and barely financed by the Social Services. Successive Unionist housing policy for sixty years and the now heavily burdened and under financed Housing Executive has meant a severe housing shortage (Women may have to wait up to six months even though they are put on the emergency housing lists) and the sectarianism here has forced women back into areas where they are still at risk from the same men. There are two advice centres in Belfast run by Women's Aid to give women help, information and solidarity.

Reclaim the Night

There have been two reclaim the night marches in Belfast, called in response to specific rapes, one in South Belfast

and one in West Belfast, and the continuing violence and harassment in society against women.

Rape Crisis Centre

Talks are under way for the setting up of a rape crisis centre in Belfast.

LAW

Someone once said "that the law like the Ritz was open to everyone". There is a lot of truth in that statement, the poorer less privileged you are the harder the law is on you—the richer you are and the more contacts you have the easier it is. Consequently, most people who end up in prison come from working class backgrounds while the 'crimes' of exploitation and robbing of working people in its various legal forms goes unheeded.

One thing to remember about the law is that it always works in the interests of the established power in any society—law is another form of social control. Consequently when the law is reformed or changed it is done for a purpose—either to keep people quiet or to give the illusion that change is taking place.

Even if 'law' did work to bring about equality Northern Ireland has always lagged behind Britain in terms of social legislation (eg the Abortion Act and Homosexuality Bills brought into Britain in the 1960s were never made law here), the Domestic Proceedings Act, the Divorce Reform Act came in much later with Direct rule and the EPA and SDA have not been tested here as in Britain.

In Northern Ireland the establishment—the ruling class and the churches oppose social reform because they refuse to let to total control of population in ALL matters go out of their hands. But even if the laws here were exactly the same as Britain would it make much difference, in fact does reforming the law ultimately change things?

Basically it doesn't. Real change comes about not by changing the law but in the practice of society—for instance the race relations acts do not stop people being racist nor the existence of groups like the National Front—similarly with the EPA and SDA which have not been successful because of entrenched positions opinions which remain unchanged and the inability of the male dominated and elitist legal system to bring about change because it would affect their positions of prestige. That is why change in the law only becomes effective when it directly challenges the powers that be and the powers that be are not interested in changing the law to the extent that it would do that—we are therefore caught in a vicious circle.

SEXUALITY

We live in a society which controls us not just socially but also sexually. We are brought up, especially in Northern Ireland to see marriage and the family as the proper place for sexual behaviour. This both reinforces the family and often due

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EVENTS

WOMEN'S AID—EVENTS OVER INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WEEK

Wednesday morning: 4th March

Protest outside the headquarters of Eastern Board, 65 University Street at their decision to defer a grant of £5,000 for the new refuge in North Belfast to meet the fire and health regulations. Women's Aid have already raised £11,000 of the money themselves.

Thursday morning: 5th March 11.30pm

Protest at Housing Executive offices at back of City Hall for the continual hassle that battered women have to put up with to get a house. This can mean producing medical reports, proving cruelty, solicitors letters, police reports, legal separation proof. Social workers reports are not accepted

Saturday morning: 7th March

Caravan in Cornmarket. Women's Aid (all volunteers welcome) will be giving out leaflets on the New Domestic Violence Order which came in on Dec. 1st and has not been given adequate coverage. A battered woman can now get an exclusion order to keep her husband out of not only the house but the street or area as well. One such exclusion order was served on a man from Ballymurphy. She can get a Personal Protection Order for herself as well. In cases of emergency this will take only a day to come through—a woman goes to her JP

and then to a magistrate. Even though the house is solely in the man's name he can still be excluded and have to face the possibility of paying the mortgage, rent, rates and general upkeep of the house.

Armagh Picket Sunday 8th March. Buses leave Dunville Park at 1pm.

PEGGY SEEGER CONCERT

7th March at 7.30pm McMordie Hall Queens University, Adm. £2—should be a good night! Tickets available from Just Books.

RALLY IN CORNMARKE

Saturday March 7th at 2.00pm
Topic: Women and Health.

CONFERENCE IN WEST BELFAST

Workshops on women's role in the H Block committees, on Armagh and on other aspects of women's oppression in Ireland. Speaker from CAP and speaker on Payment for Debt Act. Video on Ex Prisoners and statement from women in Armagh prison to be read out on medical conditions, in Divis Community Centre 11.30-5.00pm
Creche and food available.

TALK

The Law, Women, Gay men and Lesbians
Barrister to speak. 11th March at 7.30pm
Conference Room, QUB.

Belfast Women's Centre

The Women's Centre was opened over a year ago by the Northern Ireland Women's Rights Movement with a grant from the City Council. Since then the centre has become a meeting place for many groups including Women's Aid, Northern Ireland Abortion Campaign, the Rape Crisis Group as well as the Northern Ireland Women's Rights group themselves. The centre is open to all feminist groups and meetings and meetings there are generally open to all.

Recently, the NIWRM have managed to get a grant of £2,000. They have decided to use this to employ a part time worker for the centre so that it will be open six days a week and so become used even more than at present. They hope to supplement the money with money from the Peggy Seeger concert they have organised on March 7th. So they are hoping for a large turnout. If you are interested in applying for the job (see box below) or in helping in the women's centre generally contact them at 43363 or sae to 18 Donegall Street, Belfast.



**Anarchism
Feminism
Socialism
Syndicalism
JUST BOOKSISM**
7 Winetavern St.
SMITHFIELD Ph 254226

PART TIME WORKER FOR WOMEN'S CENTRE

to open centre during week days, general administration and advice work. Interested?
Send SAE to NIWRM, 18 Donegall Street, Belfast.
for job description and further details.

Continued from page 3

to the lack of sex education in schools leads to frustration and many teenage marriages for young people long before they have had time to come to terms with their growing ideas about life and love and sex. Sex is taboo here, precisely because a society where sexuality is freely expressed is a free society and that is not what the state wants.

In most areas of our lives, particularly the social, our society could hardly be accused of being receptive to new ideas, yet alone change, and so it is hardly surprising that women are seen in very traditional roles at work and in the home. Women's magazines, television, the role of women in the present political situation,

alternative and feminist literature, have all to more or lesser degrees brought more discussion of sexual matters and women's assigned role in society, but the women's movement, although growing, is very small and opinions very entrenched and against women being total and separate human beings.

Women are demanding more rights, mainly through reforms from the state, and to some extent they have been accepted, although any threat has been absorbed and neutralized within the male definition of women's role.

We are constantly being bombarded with how to be a woman: what uniform to wear this season (a skill which most women are not given enough credit for!)

and how we should perform as women. The fact that most of us can't make it or get married and adopt another role model, ending up either way feeling inferior and self hating, is as important a role as those few who manage to carry off the act successfully.

Lesbians only exist when it benefits the state for them to do so—in custody cases over children for example—and even in the left press they are not given credit. At the Armagh picket on International Women's Day last year, the republican and authoritarian left failed to report that a major number of the women who came over from England to support the prisoners were lesbians and it has never featured articles discussing lesbianism.

THATCHER UNMOVED AS M.P. HUNGER STRIKER NEARS DEATH!

All four of the hunger strikers are now in the prison hospital. Bobby Sands is now seriously ill. He has lost over 31 pounds, He has been on hunger strike for 49 days and his family has been told by the doctor looking after him that time should now be measured in days rather than weeks.

Frankie Hughes has had the slowest weight loss of the four, having now lost 15lbs. He is feeling tired and his tongue is dry. Ray McCreesh has lost 15 lbs and is having frequent headaches. Patsy O' Hara has suffered the fastest weight loss of over 21lbs now.



BOBBY SANDS MP

With hunger striker Bobby Sands getting elected as MP by the people of Fermanagh it has undermined the argument of Thatcher and Atkins and co that only a small number of people support the hunger strikers' demands.

IF VOTING COULD CHANGE THE SYSTEM, THEY WOULD ABOLISH IT!

There was a move to expel Bobby Sands from the House of Commons. In other words if it came to it, they were prepared to 'fuck' the electoral system if it didn't suit them. The liberals felt that this expulsion was a bit too extreme, and anyway this one man was no threat and would soon be dead anyway.

SS RUC

The electoral support has obviously needed the authorities who can be assured of cooling their anger by acting with an even heavier hand as evidenced in the past week, towards H.Block supporters. The forces are especially eager to contain any demonstrations within the ghettos.

ALL RIGHT FOR SOME.....

The demonstrators hadn't a chance to get near the City Hall in the recent rally. The RUC (backed as usual by the Army) stopped and arrested people who were on their way down to the city hall. Although earlier on in the day they allowed an ICTU March and Rally at the City Hall as part of the Unions Week of (In) Action. There we had the same boring, bureaucratic farts who repeatedly tell us how bad things are for us (which we already know), how jobs

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YOUTH MARCH

On Sunday March 29th, Youth against H-Block/Armagh staged a march from Whiterock to the City centre - Of course the march didn't get there.

The marchers were stopped in College Sq. and faced with a cordon of Brits and RUC who were happily clicking cameras.

Stewards held the militant marchers back from the line of security forces and eventually got the youth to sit—but not for long....From the back came a jeer followed by a bottle. From then on rioting broke out. The youth moved back to Divis flats where they had lots of ammunition and cover from the plastic bullets. The noticeable difference between this march and others was the large scale involvement of all present.

Although a few people did get hit, the youth took it all in good spirits and were totally undeterred. The youth were eventually forced back to the flats with the Brits behind, but the Brits did not stay long as they were met with a barrage of objects and noise from the flats, with tenants helping the marchers. The Brits soon retreated and all was calm.

That march has proved that still the militancy of the Irish youth has not been broken and the peoples answer to the Brits and RUC is still the same—OUT!

But, like everything, it had its faults—but the fault was not the youths, but of those who did not attend and participate as they usually do on such occasions.

sad it is that the youth (The slaves of slaves of slaves) get no recognition. Is it merely for fashion and credibilities sake that people recognise certain class struggles and leave the unfashionable until it becomes popular?

BRIXTON INSURRECTION

You will by now be aware of the anti police riots, the establishment of a temporary no go area and the attacks on property in South London, around Brixton, during 10-12th April.

By Monday 13th, the area was under a full scale police occupation. We contacted a friend who helps to run an Anarchist bookshop ('121'), in Railton Road, centre of the insurrection and who lives in the same area. He told us that the bookshop, which had up a poster supporting last years Bristol riot, was one of the few shops not wrecked and burned out.

Inside the half mile long no go area, he said that communication and co-operation between all people young and old, black and white was on a level he hadn't experienced before. Because there were no leaders or organisations manipulating them, those involved were able to use their creativity and determination to defend and EXTEND their resistance.

Realising the dangers of being isolated, groups of people spread out into nearby areas to attack police and property. It seems that people and private houses were not attacked. Police had to turn the local police station into a fortress to protect arrested prisoners. It is clear that the only "outsiders" were the police and the thugs like Whitelaw who ventured into the area. Our friend also said that people are jubilant and have a new confidence in their ability to resist the State.

The demands for the withdrawal of the police echoes similar desires in Belfast. We would like to see the entire working class of London and Belfast seize control of the city and kick out all police and soldiers. And then other towns....and Europe.....and.....

A WINDOW ON POLAND

On March 17th, in London, the windows of the Soviet airline offices—Aeroflot—were smashed and the words 'Remember Kronstadt' daubed on the walls. This action commemorated the suppression of the Kronstadt Soviet (workers council) in March 1921 by the Bolshevik Red Army led by Leon Trotsky, which resulted in the massacre of up to 8,000 revolutionary sailors and workers who tried to defend themselves. They had called for the Russian revolution to be continued against the party then in power.

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DIVERSIONS

Over the past year, summary execution has been the key Army/Police strategy in dealing with young "joy riders" in West Belfast.

The latest fatal incident took place on the 28th. March on the Grosvenor Road, after three young men in a stolen car were chased from Smithfield by a UDR landrover patrol. The UDR (predictably) said that they saw a gun being pointed at them from the back seat of the car. They opened fire, killing one person, Patrick McNally, and capturing another. Local witnesses to the killing say that at no time was there a gun in evidence — not that the UDR seemed to care, putting on an exuberant "victory" display of clenched fists for the occasion.

This was only one of many such incidents to take place recently. In the past 18 months, three young people have been shot dead, another 38 receiving gunshot or crash injuries, and two more dying in crashes. The usual Army/Police justifications are that they find it "impossible" to distinguish between joyriders and terrorists, or that a gun was seen to be pointed at them and that young people engaged in such activities could only expect to "face the consequences," although they're usually shot in the back. Local Priests and Politicians have made much the same sort of statements, "They can only expect the consequences," coupled with calls for the return of the RUC into the area.

The incidence of thefts from local people, savage beatings, rapes etc. has also increased, causing increasing fear and uncertainty in the community. Young (and not so young) hoods seem to be gaining increasing strength. The RUC, having been somewhat excluded since the establishment of the No go areas, are attempting to use this as a pretext for their return. Indeed, some of the hoods have been found with guns which were known to have previously been in the possession of the RUC. For their part, the Provos haven't had much success with their policy of Kneecapping as a preventative threat...seen by many as being indistinguishable from state rule by force of arms and fear.

The situation is pretty difficult to work atThe RUC and their dirty tricks, the Army/UDR and their policy of shoot to kill, the hoods ripping of those who can least afford it, going for soft targets such as old and single people. The RUC certainly know what they're doing in their attempts to bring about 'normalisation'...already their 'soft arm' is moving in.

Last Summer, amidst a blaze of publicity, "Extern Organisation" announced that they were intending to start a new scheme —The West Belfast Auto Project—by which young persons engaged in joyriding would be referred to them, to be included in their project. Extern is a four year old

body, consisting of social workers, probation officers, lawyers and other people 'whose professional activities are concerned with the criminal justice (sic) system in N.Ireland.' Other activities of Extern include 'Probationary and after care hostels.' They describe their aims as being 'primarily diversionary and preventative.' In other words, channelling what the state would regard as potentially dangerous energies into safe, controlled projects...A public relations exercise in what legal, approved and granted bodies can achieve.

Externs arrogance in analysing the conditions that young people live in disgusts: *"Taking and driving away motorcars has become a feature of the youth sub-culture in the West Belfast area. It has replaced for those involved, the excitement which they found in street incidents at the height of civil unrest. It is symptomatic of the adolescent stage of development (we'll beat it out of them eventually), it provides the opportunity to impress the peer group—being involved in taking and driving away confers status and esteem"*

So, Externs objectives are not concerned with changing the way in which people relate to motorcars as "status" symbols—of course not—the need to achieve and impress is supposedly a healthy thing—one of the foundation stones of the present society in which the real needs of people, old and young, aren't facilitated for....Externs role is merely one of containing the frustration that exists as a result of a highly alienated society, televisions and drink'ing clubs to temporarily relieve the misery (artificially), creating a misery of their own, "diverting" they call it. What we do not need is another cheap vanguard, telling us to look away from ourselves to a foreign body who will take on the responsibility of solving all —they won't. What it means is leaving all to a system which is trying to regain respect and return the police into the midst of our lives. (Extern admit that, to be successful, they need to work alongside the police). This is one of the roots of the alienation...so many groups and organisations, armed or unarmed, who we are told to leave all problems to. We are told that it is unnecessary for us to even think about such problems as joyriding...leave it to the system. If we are ever to take our lives into our own hands, we should immediately address the problems around us, without such obstacles to REAL community involvement as social workers, probation officers, arrogant middle class liberals "doing their bit" for the social good.

In Spain there exists independent 'cultural centres,' rooms, houses, cafes, where people go to meet, discuss and learn from each other and work on problems which are immediate to their lives, unlike our 'own' state run community centres. Hopefully in the next issue, we'll be carrying an article that we'll be able to learn something from. PS. Isn't it funny that almost all buildings for sale in the working class ghetto areas sell with licenses for the sale of alcohol?

THEY MARCHED THEM UP TO THE TOP OF THE HILL AND THEY MARCHED THEM DOWN AGAIN.

On Saturday 28th March Ian Paisley held the final Carson Trail rally in demonstration against the Anglo Irish discussions. A counter flow system operated with as many people coming down the hill from Stormont as going up at any one time. The bands as they arrived at the feet of the Carson statue turned and dandered back down, whether to march up again or just to keep on walking to the pub is anyone's guess. Its no wonder the 'big' man intermittingly kept shouting 'And they are still coming in the gate'.

The march was solely a numbers game—the guesses wide and varied from 100,000 (Paisley) 30,000 (RUC) just under 10,000 (Irish Times) between 5,000 to 6,000 (meself). Peter Robinson took great pains to intimidate the media into reporting the large turnout...not often is it possible to walk up to the main platform without having to push through a crowd.

Impressions varied—it wasn't quite the drunken atmosphere of other loyalist/orange marches. It was slightly more colourful than an H Block demo with a lot more bands in their day glo oranges, reds, whites and blues....the right hand straight up to God during the I swears echoed fascism...the short prayer lasting well over a quarter hour damning everybody and everything and containing the usual religious hocus pocus wasn't even entertaining and attracted the 30+ age group only. (1,000 actually stayed for the meeting). Whereas everyone younger was attempting to make a day of it...whether that was boozing, queueing up to buy crisps or scrapping with the Glen skinheads.

Well, phase two has ended and the talks are still going on...and go on they will whether Haughey Thatcher say they are/aren't cause they always have been whether directly or indirectly through the E.E.C.

S-ELECTIONS

Even full of holes, Reagan is still vying with Thatcher as to who can snarl the loudest at the Russian war-lords, who in turn are busy trying to stop most Polish people from claiming back some of their lost dignity. The big-Time generals are blundering and spending their way to wards a war.....any war. So preparations

are being made at all levels..... late last month even the 26 local district councils were given their instructions by the NIO as to how to behave when things got outta their control. Basically the local councils have no real say in the command structure the British Govt. would set up if nuclear war was triggered, or even if the local scene got too hot to handle....The main centre of control would rest in the secret Govt/military bunker at Armagh, housing the "centre for regional control." This bunker is the nerve centre, sending out instructions to four military area controls, again in secret underground bunkers (like the one up the Malone Rd.)

The job of the 26 regional councils is merely to supervise what is left of a disaster, to take orders from the police and military to bury the dead, to hoard the food. That these little self-opinionated fools can sit down and talk about such madness, take their brief from an insane government with a police and military back-up and then ask us to VOTE for them—any of the them—in May, is beyond comprehension.

IRISHMEN HUNGER STRIKE: NEW VIDEO TAPE SHOWING JUST BOOKS, SATURDAY 18 APRIL 2.30

PETER JONES' HUNGER STRIKES AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY FOR OVER 50 YEARS, DRILLING, SICKING, WOUNDED & FAMILIES TO CHARGE, BUT GUN-TEXT AND SCOTCH. (ABC OF JEREMY)

ANY GAY MEN OR WOMEN INTERESTED IN LIBERTARIAN POLITICS SHOULD CONTACT SEAN, % DOUTER CONTROL

CONGRATULATIONS PAUL RUFF, SONG-WRITER, CARA-TONNIE, ANGLICAN, NOW OUT AFTER 3 YEARS

CND: Disarming peoples energy

About 200 attended the CND lecture/meeting at Queens University on Tuesday, 2nd April. The panel numbered four, a chairperson, two political hacks, Kilfedder of the 'Popular Unionist Party', and an unknown from the SDLP, plus Bruce Kent, director of CND.

Kilfedder kicked off with a half hour oration about how good he was to be opposed to nuclear missiles, considering many a good 'un has been pushed into the political wilderness for such a stand.

The person from the SDLP was barely audible, muttering something about "the crisis" before his beard engulfed his throat.

Lastly Bruce Kent spoke, an extremely articulate, smooth and witty deliverer who launched straight away into the CND analysis of why we have nuclear missiles. Firstly, we heard of the institutions who foster confrontation, domination....the State, churches, multinationals etc....and because of these characteristics, these institutions have forced us to live under a nuclear threat. The CND director then made proposals as to how we should best oppose the Trident missiles etc....and that is through these very institutions who have created the confrontation, domination, exploitation and hierarchies. Indeed the churches should be at the forefront of opposition to nuclear missiles! In fact, it is obvious that all these institutions should be got rid of.

The local Belfast CND branch takes the Bruce Kent analysis to an extreme. They state on their application form that they are opposed to the removal of any uranium from Ireland unless there are some guarantees that it won't be used for missiles..... and who is to give these guarantees? Of course—the state, the same state who's pushing to have nuclear missiles, and also to build them, which is a totally absurd suggestion.

Opposition to the nuclear arms race then has to follow certain lines suggest the pannel, a pannel which represents the thinking of CND in general and CND Belfast in particular.

Kilfedder is convinced that the best strategy is to write to your MP, and when he asked how many of the 200 present had in fact written to their duly elected representatives (sic) he was met with silence. There was only one sensible voice who suggested that they wouldn't even talk to their MP if they called to their front door.

CND opposition is one of co-option, where you join CND, pay your membership and the committee will do the rest...it will petition, appeal or whatever on your behalf....occasionally they will ask you out to parade in a march from point A to B and so participate in the numbers game.

Passive marches of this kind will do nothing to change the state's plans on nuclear arms, as can be seen from the massive and ineffective CND rallies of the '60's. The renewed interest now seems to have been stimulated by the growth in the independent anti-nuclear groups, but is much more superficial. CND policy is one of opposing the bomb alone—it does not involve itself with nuclear power, uranium mining (unless it is for bomb production), the existence of armies and ecological questions. The

reason we have the bomb is due to the development of the state, capital, multinationals who manipulate and exploit on that strength. Nuclear power is not very different in that it is developed by the same people for the same objective, one of centralised exploitation. To be opposed to one we've got to be opposed to the other. To be opposed to the nuclear industry in total is to be opposed to the notion of the state and exploitation—This is one responsibility which can't be co-opted to the CND committee. CND's support seems to be based on open - style protest, but requiring no opposition or resistance to the state.

A question that must be asked is why were the special branch invited along to stand at the back? Plus, who did the inviting? I also think that the whole format of the meeting must be questioned. What is the benefit of three personalities regurgitating words to bolster their failing egos? In the discussion that followed, why was it that only a dozen or so people participated? Were the other 190 empty of thoughts and suggestions?—I think not.

I think it would have been a more worthwhile evening if organisers energies had gone into seeing that there was information available that could have been brought away, read, and thought about. Also, every one present could have broken up into workshops and discussed, rather than differentiating between Trident and Cruise missiles, how they are going to challenge the nuclear state and get on with it. Create your own independent groups, ideas and activities.

Govt. at Work

The British war machine is spending £3000 million on their air defences. A large chunk of this—£100 million—is going to go to U.K.A.D.G.E.....United Kingdom Air Defence Ground Environment (improved!)....the communications network which manages and directs the nuclear weapons. A large part of this bill—80%—is being donated by the US dominated NATO. Most of the money will be spent on 50 underground "command and communication centres"...many will have computers to handle information from radar aircraft and new radar installations. Planes and remote fixed radar will feed information to central control centres, where it is decided which missiles and which aircraft will attack and kill—already 2 new military radars have been ordered...at Buchan in NE Scotland and Benbecula in the Outer Hebrides.

Hunger Strike

As far as we know, the 31 Marxist and Anarchist prisoners of the Red Army Faction/ 2nd. of June Movement have called off their hunger-strike. This follows the death of one of the hunger strikers. They were demanding to be treated as prisoners of war, get free association and communication, an end to electrical surveillance and the release of two who are critically ill.

Despite deliberate media silence, many actions—occupations, demonstrations, riots, pickets etc.—were carried out in support of the prisoners. Since the death, rioting has occurred in several West German Cities and is likely to continue, with the police on alert for riot duty.

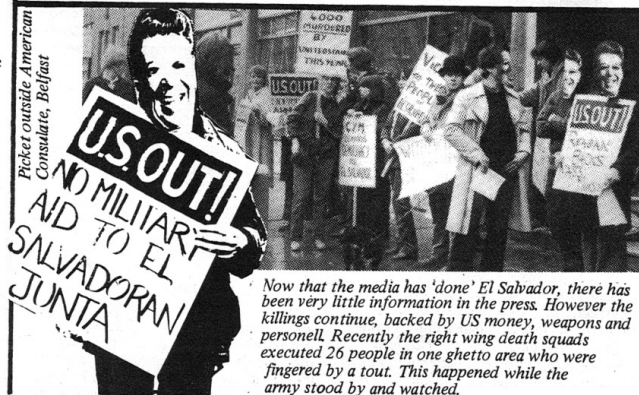
"Amnesty International" now say that they will take up the prisoners case (which they have supposedly been doing since 1979), although on previous performances, we can expect very little from them.

MAKE RIO TINTO STINK...

Irish and British anti-nuclear people are planning activities against Rio Tinto Zinc.... May 4th.-11th.. They are the world's most corrupt and powerful multi-national mining concern and amongst other things, are directly responsible for thousands of deaths in Namibia.in their attempt at extracting uranium to feed the western nuclear machines

May 4th.-11th....to make Rio Tinto Stink!!

Twelve such stations will be built in the 1980's, and when war is imminent, when the British/US generals are ready to attack the radars will be moved to a 'safe' site. It is thought that one of the 12 mobile radar units will be at Bishops court, and in time of war moved to St. Angels (Fermanagh) or near Ballycastle. But won't the Russians respond and go for them there? Not quite, the British and Americans plan to build decoys...radar that will transmit identical signals, give out the same amount of heat... so that any retaliated strike with a nuclear warhead will head for the decoy. So the mobile radar at Bishops court gets shifted North....is it a decoy station that the British military are currently building at St. Johns Point in SE Down, a mere 12 miles away from there? Wouldn't it be a pity if the entire population of Downpatrick and the surrounding area were to get wiped out—just because the British war mongers operated a decoy?



Now that the media has 'done' El Salvador, there has been very little information in the press. However the killings continue, backed by US money, weapons and personnel. Recently the right wing death squads executed 26 people in one ghetto area who were fingered by a tout. This happened while the army stood by and watched.

Hunger Strike cont. from Page 1
are scarce, how the welfare state is crumbling, how the government is going in the wrong direction and please go quietly home and see you same time next year (hopefully we'll have wised up to them by then).



STRIKE!

Workers on their day of action in support of the Hunger Strike were also prevented from entering the city centre at College Street on their way to hold a picket outside Transport House, the ITGWU headquarters, rioting followed when the demonstration broke up.

OCCUPY!

The GPO occupation in Royal Avenue in the City Centre was short lived as once again the RUC moved quickly in and again arrests were made.

BETTER LATE?

Undoubtedly and unfortunately things really will 'take off' one way or another where the last hunger strike left off ie: when Bobby Sands is about to die. There will be fewer mass organised events and more spontaneous actions.

CONFUSION

There is still concern about the rather confusing end to the last hunger strike. With the prisoners relying on the goodwill of the British Government to carry out the verbal agreement to meet the prisoners demands and then reneging surely history and indeed their own situation has taught them not to trust the Brits. And the Brits arrangement was even more suspect when before and after the Hunger Strike they repeatedly stated that there would be no sell out and not giving in to the prisoners demands.

THE WAY FOR GETTING THINGS DONE

When the last hunger strike was declared 'over' most action groups 'stood down'. However they should have been encouraged to continue to wait for the final outcome and even taken up other issues.

It was clearly demonstrated that a lot of local groups were effectively able to carry out dynamic and often original actions and propaganda collectively and individually. As people felt directly involved they were able to do things for themselves without being led by some political party, or central committees. Local organising led to people frankly debating the wider situation they found themselves in.

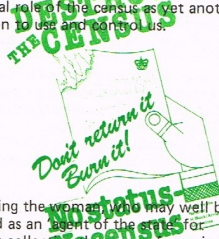
HEADS ON THE BLOCK

Five years of protest by the prisoners has not won back political status but has shown that only through the support and actions of people outside can their demands be won. A lot of people actively supporting the last hunger strike were harassed, beaten up, fined and imprisoned and murdered because of their actions. Therefore the prisoners inside should have a responsibility towards informing people and not just consulting their political

groups as to any negotiations with the government. This would clarify publicly any agreement which the British state might reach. They would find it more difficult to wrinkle out of it.

NO CENSUS

The mass burning and non return of the census forms has provided yet another way of resisting Thatcher. Some local groups have merely said 'no status', 'no census' while other groups have exposed the real role of the census as yet another weapon to use and control us.



Shooting the women may well be classed as an 'act of the state' for simply collecting the census forms is certainly grabbing the wrong end of the stick. If it was indeed carried out by an anti-H Block supporter, she did not deserve to be shot because other people decided to co-operate and fill in their forms. Are the 23,000 people employed by the state also enemies? The action of seizing the census forms from the collectors can only lead to government delay in getting them again or prosecuting those who have not returned them.

ELECTIONS

With the timely death of Frank Maguire in Fermanagh, this had given the opportunity to put forward Bobby Sands as a candidate. It was a straight fight between Unionist Harry West and Bobby Sands (the anti unionist candidates having temporarily withdrawn from the contest until Bobby Sands resigns or dies when the election can be 'properly' fought).

Although not going directly forward as a Sinn Fein candidate but on the label as an H Block prisoner, standing Bobby Sands is a departure for Sinn Fein who have usually abstained from and boycotted elections in the North. They didn't recognise the British State (though they go in for elections down South thus showing that they are ultimately statist)

However will the voting of the IRA O/C Bobby Sands be seen by Sinn Fein as the total legitimatisation of the military struggle or do the votes of the Fermanagh people simply mean a peaceful way of rejecting Britain's policies/presence or for humanitarian reasons or is there no alternative but to vote for Bobby Sands to stop a loyalist getting the satisfaction of being elected?

DON'T VOTE: ORGANISE

Perhaps people should have ignored the democratic process and abstained from this and any other election farce thereby supporting the prison struggle indirectly and rejecting the electoral system completely. Okay, West would have got in but the system of money and power continues to dominate us all, one way or another, so what difference does it make who gets in?

The election has provided an armchair 'spectacle' for the people of Fermanagh and the mass media. The organisers believe it is useful in gaining publicity in the mass media. But the reliance on bourgeois media only reflects our own weaknesses in communicating and reinforces the idea

that after a period of silence on the prison issue, TV is once again 'interesting'.

Ultimately it will do more harm than good

EXTREME DAMAGE

The media were hysterical in equating a vote for Bobby Sands as a vote for terrorism little expecting him to win. The media have hung themselves with their own words. And probably many others by insinuating that everybody who voted, supported the military campaign, justifying them as legitimate targets in the eyes of the loyalist paramilitary groups.

Poland cont. from Page 1 GENERAL STRIKES

Their programme (which is available at 'Just Books') is similar in some ways to the demands developed by the working class resistance in Poland.

At present in Poland, there is a class war. In every workplace, people have created assemblies of ALL the workers, co-ordinated in each town and region by Workers Councils of recallable delegates. They resist by seizing directly all factories and offices in a region (like the week long general strike and occupations in the Bielsko-Biala region in March), as well as some Govt. buildings. There was also the four hour TOTAL general strike on March 27th

Such working class solidarity is on a scale rarely experienced anywhere in the world before, and is a lesson and inspiration to us all.

WHAT CHOICES?

The Polish ruling class has two major choices—to concede reforms, or to oppose with their army (if they will fight), backed by the Russian Army.

But there is a world wide economic recession, and everywhere people are being forced to accept worse standards of living conditions, coupled with increasing state repression. At the same time, all Govts. grow more ruthless in order to defend themselves. They are unable to concede any more reforms or improvements to us.

So what choices for those working and living in Poland? If they seek reforms (as they are at present), the rulers will continue to encourage the growing Solidarnosc bureaucracy. They will use it, coupled with the Catholic church, to institutionalise and divide, weaken and control the workers councils and assemblies. In this way, resistance could be undermined, then defeated.

However, the other choice is for social revolution, the seizure of all production (already proved possible) and the streets and land too, under the direct control of the people themselves (not the new Solidarnosc officialdom). They will need to

defend it with arms, and to call for solidarity and similar action amongst workers throughout Europe (East and West), spreading across the whole world. After all, we are all in the same boat when it comes down to it, and the alternative seems to be to accept as inevitable a world war and annihilation.

Occupations are on the increase in Ireland (like Euroweld) and Britain—it's about time they were spread, co-ordinated, overflowed into the neighbourhoods, and moved onto the offensive against this exploiting and destructive system.

As we seize control in this way, we would begin at the same time to transform our lives and environment.

Gaining Ground

Outta Control Women's Supplement

The right to vote, or equal civil rights, may be good demands, but true emancipation begins neither at the polls, nor in courts. It begins in woman's soul. History tells us that every oppressed class gained true liberation from its masters through its own efforts. It is necessary that woman learn that lesson, that she realise that her freedom will reach as far as her power to achieve her freedom reaches.
EMMA GOLDMAN 1911

CONTRACEPTIVE JAB ROYAL EXPERIMENTS ON WOMEN

In the early seventies a new contraceptive drug was added to the existing list. The new drug was hailed widely as an answer to all women's problems concerning pregnancy. Why? You might ask—was it safer? was it more effective than the pills in existence? did it have no side effects? On all these questions the answer was a resounding no—but it did have one different feature from other contraceptive drugs. You didn't take it once a day—it was injected, only once every three to six months and you were guarded for that whole period. No more worries about forgetting, easy, quick and cheaper.

Well, that was what the drug company who produced it claimed anyway. The drug was marketed in the USA by a company called UpJohn—its name was Depo Provera. In the USA though, to sell a drug you must have the approval of the Food and Drug Administration. As with all drugs the FDA initiated investigations and in 1971 refused it a licence, banning the drug after research showed that it caused breast cancer in dogs. The Upjohn company immediately appealed the decision but ten years later the drug is still banned in the USA and more recent research has shown a connection between cervical cancer and depo provera.

So after that you might be forgiven for thinking that that was the end of it....you were wrong. Upjohn having spent a considerable amount of time and most importantly money on the development of depo provera had to make up their losses.....and they have. They simply exported the drug out of the USA to any country that wasn't as fussy as the US Food and Drug Administration. In practical terms that means most Third World countries and also many European countries including Britain—but we'll return to that.

This process is known as 'dumping' and is a common practice in the USA. Drugs, chemicals, pesticides and baby products have all been dumped on the third world when turned down or banned in the USA. Although the US government has banned the item if we take depo provera it is the US government under the guise of the US agency for International Development that exports the item. AID buys up large quantities of products to send to developing countries—in particular it buys up contraceptives because it believes that people outside the USA are breeding too much and should be stopped.

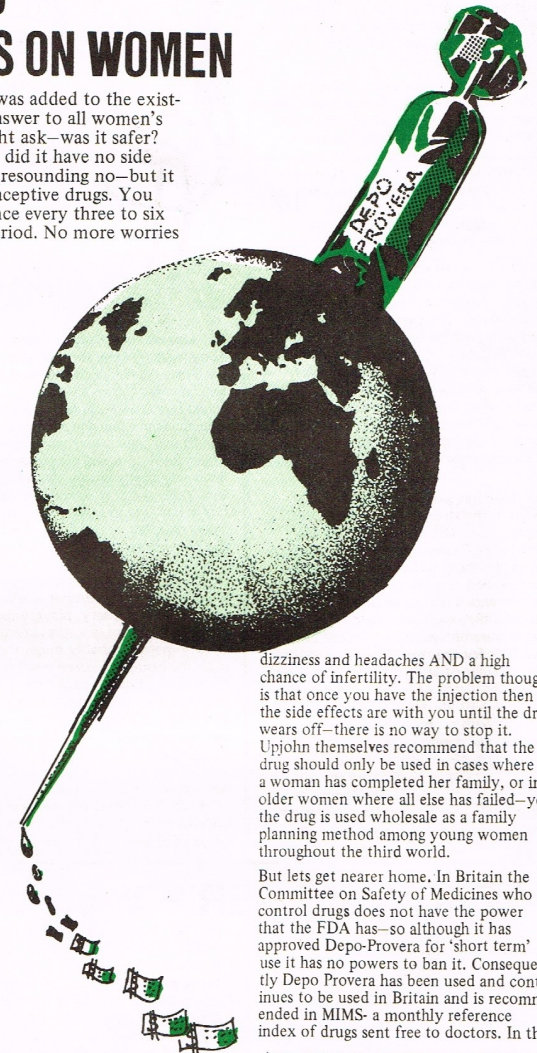
It then distributes these products at a cost to countries around the world and South American, African and Asian women end up using products which have been declared unsafe for American women. So over 5 million women in 70 countries have used depo provera despite the huge risks involved

The drug is injected by a doctor or nurse and is effective for up to six months depending on dosage. As well as the links between depo provera and cancer, the drug itself has many side effects including constant nausea,

dizziness and headaches AND a high chance of infertility. The problem though is that once you have the injection then the side effects are with you until the drug wears off—there is no way to stop it. Upjohn themselves recommend that the drug should only be used in cases where a woman has completed her family, or in older women where all else has failed—yet the drug is used wholesale as a family planning method among young women throughout the third world.

But lets get nearer home. In Britain the Committee on Safety of Medicines who control drugs does not have the power that the FDA has—so although it has approved Depo-Provera for 'short term' use it has no powers to ban it. Consequently Depo Provera has been used and continues to be used in Britain and is recommended in MIMS—a monthly reference index of drugs sent free to doctors. In the

We would like any woman who wants to make comments, write articles/small news items, coming events to contact us at c/o 7 Winetavern Street, Belfast 1. Tel: 25426



HOSPITAL CRECHE CLOSURE

The day care nursery at the Royal Victoria is to be closed down at the end of May. It was one of three nurseries in Northern Ireland, all privately run, and had provision for seventy children, with another hundred on the waiting list. This is just another example of how the cuts in public expenditure are affecting the workers—both the bus service and the internal bank, both important facilities for people working in shifts, have already been closed down.

Hospital work is not a nine to five job and apart from the usual difficulties (sickness, lack of permanency) women face when leaving their children with childminders, or relatives, the women affected at the Royal will have the extra problem of finding someone to look after their young children at unsuitable hours. This may well prove to be impossible and will force them to consider part time work or unemployment.

The provision of nurseries in Northern Ireland is scandalously non-existent. Three years ago the British Government's White Paper 'Policy and Objectives for Daycare and Education for the Underfives' was advocating the doubling of nursery schools and playgroups by 1983, which although it hasn't happened yet, would still have been hopelessly too little to affect the situation.

Women have always had to work outside the home to supplement the family income or because their men were unemployed. The closures and the cuts are forcing women back into the home: and the State is in no way going to make it easier for them to compete for the few jobs going by providing good childcare provision. There are already hundreds of applications for jobs in the Royal and they are interviewing 50 people after selection procedures for low level jobs.

The State has always used women as pawns in the struggle to find and keep employment. During the last war the Ministry of Commerce ran day care nurseries in Northern Ireland because women were needed to work in industry. When the war ended and some of the men returned they were all closed down so that the women would be forced to leave their jobs for the men. The Ministry in their circular of 1945 reinforced this by a great discovery of the time 'the best place for a child under the age of two is at home with his mother'.

This view that women should be at home caring for their children and husbands is a relatively new idea. From the seventeenth century onwards, the family has become a centre for childcare and work is seen as an activity done outside the home.



The view that women should remain at home is reinforced through the media and the State by the lie of the ideal family—two parents, father employed, semi-detached house with car and the requisite two children—that the majority of us do not fit into this prescription is obvious. The role of 'mother' is exaggerated. There is no way that a woman has unlimited time and energy to spend with her child. For a start she may have two, five or ten other children to consider, as well as all the other domestic chores and financial hassles to consider. She may not want to fit in with the State's stereotype and want to carry on with her work. A purpose built day nursery, playgroup, creche, or nursery school is a stimulating environment, probably much more so than the home. Children need to mix with other children of the same age and whether it be for two and a half hours at a playgroup or all day in the nursery, women need the break too. A child cooped up at home with his/her mother all the time is more likely to emerge the aggressive, possessive ego centric clinging to mother five year old we have all either been or seen—the junior version of many grown ups around him/her.

contd on facing page

WE WON'T
LET ANYONE
CHOOSE FOR
US
OUR BODIES
OUR CHOICE

On the 8th April Dr Harvey Jackson was jailed for three years for performing three abortions. At his trial the judge said that although Jackson had probably acted out of feeling for the women, abortion was none the less a serious crime in Northern Ireland. It appears that Jackson did not charge very much for his services in one case £4, and in another £20, and his defence council argued that both these sums were offered to Jackson, as he would have helped the women involved for nothing.

In all three cases the women involved suffered some sort of complication after the abortion, one woman died though she had been to another person before she came to Jackson and so he was not held responsible for her death. Jackson also had a drinking problem and the abortions were carried out in unsanitary conditions and in a crude and dangerous way.

These three cases point to a simple truth - that whatever the danger to themselves women will have abortions. The fact that abortion is illegal in Northern Ireland just means that if they don't have the money to go to England then they will find other means which may have tragic results. Whatever we may feel about the way that Jackson carried out these abortions, it is clear that he acted out of concern for the women involved. His sentence is an indictment of both the legal and the medical professions here who can stand by and let women suffer needlessly because they cannot obtain free and legal abortions here. The results of the court case should not have been a prison sentence but a call for legal abortions in Northern Ireland, for until that happens there will always be such cases and women will continue to have illegal abortions here, or be forced to go to England to have one. After only four months of 1981 the figures for women going to England for that purpose has almost doubled, that means that the total figure for the year is likely to be well over 3000, and taking Ireland as a whole that could be around 7000!

PEGGY SEEGER - in concert

Congratulations to the Northern Ireland Women's Rights Movement for one of the best concerts in Belfast in a long time. The concert was the one organised for International Women's Day this year. It was held in the McMordie Hall at Queens, and followed the rally in the city centre earlier that day when the theme was women's health.

The concert was in two parts, the first contained several women entertainers who sang in a variety of languages, and proved

that the women's movement here has a wealth of talent where music is concerned. It would be a good idea to get them all together again soon. The second part of the concert was given over to Peggy Seeger, who opened by apologising for her star billing, and praising the women who had gone before her. She was accompanied by her son, and together they played and entertained us for the rest of the evening.

I must admit that I went to the concert with some trepidation - I had heard

records by Peggy Seeger before and didn't really like them a lot. But the live Seeger does not compare with the recorded one. She was amazing on stage, vital, humorous, and at one with her whole audience.

The evening ended with all the performers back on stage singing with the audience 'The women's army is marching'. We all left in a jubilant mood, as befitted international women's day. I hope that it won't be too long before we get to hear Peggy Seeger again in Belfast.

CONFERENCE ON IMPERIALISM

Once again this year, many British and international feminists arrived in the north to picket Armagh prison on International Women's Day, to show their solidarity with the protesting prisoners there. The preceding day had seen a conference on women in Irish society, and their relationship to the anti-imperialist struggle. Badly planned with very few women from Belfast turning up, and many more women-up to 400 instead of the expected 80-arriving from overseas, the conference was disappointing. It was very much a speakers to the auditorium affair; no workshops to talk and explore ideas in greater depth. Maybe that would have been difficult to organise for 400 women at such short notice, I personally don't think so. Perhaps it wouldn't have felt so important if we hadn't been subjected to a series of statements about policy from the various groups, admittedly some of the more clichéd coming from British feminists 'belonging to a revolutionary movement, blah, blah.....'

The best and certainly the most courageous speech came from a member of Women Against Imperialism. She spoke of how their time and energy had been spent on the Armagh/H-block issue, to the exclusion of the many struggles that feminists in the north had been fighting. An exclusion that had helped to break up the group and make them feel more and more isolated. Sadly this speech was not taken up and debated. All too often we are presented with the simplistic idea that the priority is national liberation and feminist issues will be sorted out later in a united Ireland (in about six weeks time if you need an abortion!).

But the reality isn't like that. Imagine for example, if you were a single parent for whatever reason, death, separation, prison, - probably living on social security, maybe wanting to get a job, but with well over 100,000 unemployed in the north, it becomes a question of luck more than ability, experience or qualification. There is no one to look after the children anyway because there are no full day nurseries. Money is short you withheld the rent and rates in the protest at internment or got behind with electricity payments so the Payment for Debt Act takes £11 per week out of your supplementary benefit before you even get it..... We all know that the list is endless and not by any means restricted to single parent families. Women have committed suicide, taken alarming doses of valium, abandoned new born babies, shoplifted, or prostituted themselves or their daughters under the pressure. Feminists have always been the first to raise these issues and actively campaign, many of us have been through the mill and can't ignore them even if it does seem impossible to fight them all at once, and yet still recognise the importance of defeating imperialism. If there is to be

another conference next year perhaps we could talk about these issues.

SINN FEIN WOMEN'S PROGRAMME

When I heard about the new Sinn Fein Women's Programme, I thought of the amazement generated when feminists read their first policy document 'Eire Nua' - they had simply forgotten half the population in their united Ireland, women..... this document is an attempt to remedy the situation.

During the last two years there has been increasing support for the protesting women prisoners from feminists in Britain and abroad. In the light of this it has become embarrassing for Sinn Fein not to have a programme on women because there is a lot of potential and importance in such international support. As any group though can write up a programme, the test will be whether Sinn Fein gives active support to the issues they have outlined.

So what is in the document? Well there would be divorce, equal opportunities for women in employment, changes in the educational system particularly to eliminate sexism, contraception would be available within the family, all in all a lot of stress has been placed on passing laws to make women more equal - laws which we know from experience can be broken, repealed, ignored or have so many loopholes to be useless anyway.

The main criticism has to be the 'there will be no abortion' clause, 'for this is a very Catholic country, and the majority of women don't want them anyway'. Since when has Sinn Fein recognised majorities? Besides which over 5000 women leave Ireland north and south every year to seek abortions in England, over 10 years that starts mounting into quite a sizeable number the majority of whom are Catholic! To ease the situation there would be no illegitimacy, as if that is the only reason women have abortions. No law will remove the stigma, and the social and economic difficulties of having a child on ones own - that is where action is needed. The choice whether or not to have a child should be the woman's choice and hers alone, only she can decide what affects her. No woman should have to genuflect before any state, any state's morality, or any state's religious lies and beg for an abortion. Finally, lesbianism doesn't get a mention!

We were told that this was the first step towards a programme on women and that some Sinn Feiners felt that it didn't go far enough. It reads like the sort of list that feminists might compile of issues to be dealt with in the short term (although I doubt if many feminists would accept its shortcomings), rather than a picture of a society where women are liberated and not oppressed.

UNITY MEETING

The Unity Meetings are open to all women and to all women's groups. They take place every month and have instigated campaigns such as the Debt Campaign, Abortion Campaign, Rape Crisis Centre etc etc.

The Unity Meeting of April 4th was a noisy experience. We hope that it was not too overwhelming for any woman who was there for the first time. As we tried to make our voices heard above the sounds of children playing at our feet, we decided that a creche was absolutely essential-how we organise one is to be the topic for discussion at our next meeting.

The meeting decided that a women's newsletter for the North would be invaluable in developing contacts and providing a forum for communication. The first issue-for women only-will be out at the beginning of May.

The main discussion concerned the local Government elections-what could the women's movement do to make its presence felt?

A series of questions are being compiled and sent out to candidates asking their views on childcare, health, equal pay, low paid women workers, cuts in the social services etc...which will also be sent out as a press statement. Many issues will be raised at this election, but it will be the first time that women have made it plain what their priorities are.

Next Unity Meeting: 9th May at 11am, Women's Centre, 18 Donegall Street.

Deadline for articles for newsletter: 27th April. Send articles to women's centre.

NOTE: 16th May-International Day of Action on Contraception, Abortion, Sterilization. Stalls in Cornmarket from 11am. Disco Students Union in the evening.



**CRECHE CLOSURE
CONTINUED FROM
FACING PAGE**

A society which is geared towards all people's needs, where no one, especially children, is underestimated, is not a pleasant dream, unobtainable and idealistic. To want community nurseries, community after school day centres, nurseries in places of work which are controlled by the people who use them, is not a luxury that we forego when the State wants to crazily balance the books. The closure of the creche at the Royal will become an important issue during the next two weeks and all support should be given by feminists to the hospital workers in the fight to save their creche.



FILM REVIEW



If you want a good night out, lookout for the film *Nine to Five* when it comes to Belfast. The plot is simple enough - three secretaries decide to take revenge on a boss who treats them like servants and family pets and who is in their own words 'a sexist, egotistical, hypocritical, and stupid bigot'. Having chained him up in his own palatial home, they proceed to run the office for the next six weeks, raise productivity, job satisfaction, and general happiness by putting the workers needs first, during which time no one misses Mr Hart - the boss.

The three women involved are Lily Tomlin head of the section who had taught Hart



"Fire him."

He's got great legs."

his job, and for her efforts was passed by repeatedly when promotions were made and given to men; Jane Fonda a woman who has never worked outside the home until her husband runs off with his secretary, and she suddenly finds she needs the money; Lastly there is Dolly Parton who no one will talk to because they think she is having an affair with the boss, while in reality she is repeatedly fighting his lecherous advances off.

Having taken enough of Hart's insults and demands they team up in an attempt to regain their dignity and self-esteem, and the result is a very funny film full of slapstick, jokes, fantasy scenes, and one with a hardedged feminist message. The film shows how secretaries are exploited by their bosses, being called girls by men younger than them, doing the bosses shopping in their lunch hour, having their ideas poached and never being given any credit for them, being used as sex objects, and as coffee makers.

The film points out that most of the work done in any office is done by the women workers there not by the boss, and that doing without him for long periods proved no problem at all.

The three women were not as divorced from their sisters in the typing pool, so they proceed to instigate a whole programme to help the workers - a creche, flexible working hours, job sharing, individuality, and better pay. All works beautifully until the boss escapes, but we won't tell you the ending - suffice to say its a happy one.

We don't agree with all the sentiments expressed in the film, as it is firmly rooted in the capitalist way of life and no real criticisms are made of that. On the other hand though the film does show the possibilities when workers do things for themselves and work co-operatively and imaginatively together. And its really good to see real women portrayed, living real lives on the big screen - a must.

DEPO PROVERA

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

middle seventies the drug was used experimentally in the poorest and highest unemployment areas of Glasgow where it was felt that women were unreliable and that injectable contraceptives were the only guarantee of no pregnancies particularly amongst so called 'problem' families. Depo Provera has also been used on mentally handicapped women and women in mental hospitals. It is also used for the treatment of menstrual disorder or where women have a history of painful periods. The CSM recommended that depo provera should be used in only two cases—where a couple are waiting for vasectomy or where a woman has been in contact with german measles and should not conceive for a certain period. But there is nothing to prevent a doctor using a drug in whatever way they choose and it is clear that CSM's guidelines are widely disregarded.

In Northern Ireland the situation is no different. Depo Provera is being used here. Over the last two years Depo Provera has been dispensed by the Royal Victoria Hospital to women both as a contraceptive and to clear up menstrual problems. The RVH is clearly running some sort of experiment, it is fully aware of the dangers of the drug and the guidelines laid down by CSM, yet it has never informed any women of its dangers, in fact few women have even been told the name of the drug they have been injected with. In recent months several cases of prescription by GP have come to light in Northern Ireland—so the drug is effectively being used on a widescale.

The medical profession is once again treating women as guinea pigs and testing drugs without the consent of the women involved.

If your doctor offers you a wonder contraceptive that you get through injection as him/her what it is called.

Remember the following:

1. Depo Provera has been linked positively with both breast and cervical cancer.
2. It has particularly upsetting side effects
3. It may cause infertility.
4. It has been BANNED in the USA.

You have the right to refuse to be experimented on— USE IT.

...and for those of us trying to get pregnant

Present studies indicate that the average male sperm count is declining at a fast rate—in 1923, it was around 100 million sperm per cubic centimetre of semen—today it is around 50. (20 or below is regarded as sub-normal) Why? The decline is linked with a dramatic rise in the last 30 years of chemicals—in particular pesticides such as DDT and agent orange, and in radiation levels as more nuclear power stations are built. Other causes include sterilising agents used in hospitals, regular smoking of marijuana and increase in VD levels. Men at greatest occupational risk include

workers in Medicine, Dentistry, smelting storage, battery production, chemistry, bakeries, glass factories, radar, aviation, radiation and X rays.

AND MALE IMPOTENCE—

Often male impotence is linked to psychological problems—stress, anxiety in performance, general worries, but the following have also been given as causes and should be considered if the problem arises:

1. Drugs like tranquilisers, antidepressants Taganett (for ulcers) excess alcohol,

heavy smoking of both marijuana and tobacco and high doses of Aspirin.

2. Diabetes, where nerve damage has occurred.
3. Prostrate operations.
4. Operations on the Colon and virtually all abdominal surgery will cause temporary impotence.

—Remember though— Occasional impotence is "normal" in all men.

FLOWERING ♀+♂

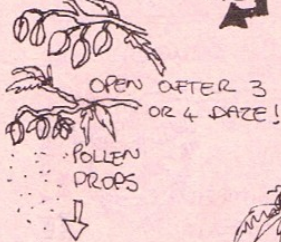
HARVEST..

HANG PLANTS UPSIDE DOWN IN A DARK ROOM + LEAVE TO DRY FOR 2-3 WEEKS. OFTEN IN IRELAND, WITH DAMP + DARK WEATHER, ONLY LEAVES ARE HARVESTED. IF PLANTS FLOWER, THE POTENCY + YIELD WILL BE INCREASED, SO IT'S BEST TO LEAVE THEM UNTIL SEPTEMBER (OR THE 1ST FROST) OR WHEN THEY HAVE FULLY FLOWERED... HOMEGROWN GRASS IS USUALLY BRIGAT GREEN + FAIRLY POTENT!

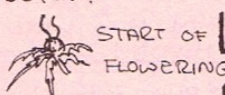
DON'T LEGALISE DOPE - END LAWS..

AFTER ABOUT 3 TO 4 MONTHS OF GROWING, WHEN THE LIGHT DAY BECOME SHORTER THE PLANT FLOWERS. THIS USUALLY HAPPENS BETWEEN JULY AND LATE SEPTEMBER. THERE CAN BE FEMALE + MALE FLOWERS ON SEPERATE PLANTS OR BOTH ON ONE PLANT.

MALE FLOWERS LOOK LIKE THIS



FEMALE FLOWERS WHERE THE SEED IS "BORN".



SEED IS FORMED AND FLOWER BEGINS TO DIE...

LARGE NUMBERS OF FEMALE FLOWERS TERM "CONES"



SOIL

IF THE SOIL USED IS RICH FROM THE BEGINNING, PLANTS WON'T NEED ANY FOOD (THOUGH THEY'LL TAKE ALL THEY GET). INFORMATION ON SOIL + RICHNESS IS EASY TO GET - ANY "GARDENING" BOOK (CONCERNING DOPE OR NOT) CONTAINS NOTES ON THIS SUBJECT - SHIT + SEAWEED, BONE MEAL + DRIED BLOOD AND EVEN DEAD LEAVES ALL ENRICH THE SOIL AND SHOULD BE DUG INTO THE SOIL AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

PESTS - GREENFLY, SLUGS AND CERTAIN OTHER PESTS SOMETIME ATTACK DOPE PLANTS - PLANTING GARLIC NEAR-BY DISCOURAGES THESE PESTS - THEY DON'T LIKE THE SMELL.

IF PLANTING IN CONTAINERS, THE BIGGER THE CONTAINER, THE BETTER. EVEN PLASTIC BAGS WITH DRAINAGE HOLES IN THE BOTTOM WORK WELL.

CANNABIS PLANTS CAN GROW TO 6FT TALL IN IRELAND

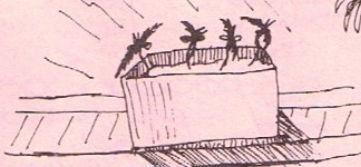


THE DREADED WEED

+ HOW TO GROW IT!

(CANNABIS, MARIJUANA, GRASS, HASH, CANNABIS RESIN (LIKE THE SAP) ALL COME FROM THE SAME PLANT -

HEMP (ALSO THE CANNABIS PLANT) WAS ONCE GROWN IN IRELAND FOR ITS FIBRE -



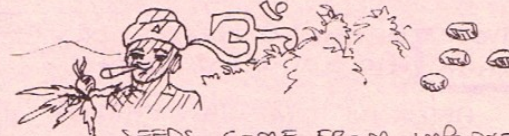
Spring



PLANT DOPE INDOORS (GREENHOUSE, WINDOW SILLS) ANYTIME FROM EARLY MARCH TO LATE JULY (PLANTS STARTED IN JULY ARE SMALL, BUT IT'S SOMETHING ANYWAY). ANY CONTAINERS CAN BE USED AS SEED-BOXES, BUT ITS BETTER IF THEY HAVE HOLES IN THE BOTTOM). KEEP THE SEEDS IN A WARM PLACE (SOAK OVERNITE IN WARM WATER FIRST) + THEY'LL COME UP IN ABOUT 3-20 DAYS!

SITES: THE MOST IMPORTANT NEED OF A PLANT (ESPECIALLY MARIJUANA) IS LIGHT. THE SUNNIER THE SITE IS, THE BETTER - A WINDOW WHICH FACES SOUTH, TOWARDS THE SUN, OR A FIELD WHICH IS NOT SHADOWED, ARE BEST. SOIL SHOULD BE RICH, AND TOO HEAVY OR CLAYISH.

ON BACKWINDOWSILLS FACING SOUTH, IN GREENHOUSES, IN CLEARINGS I'N FORESTS OR FIELDS, AMONG GORSE BUSH OR ON WASTE GROUND ARE GOOD SITES - ANYWHERE FAR FROM BABYLON.....



SEEDS COME FROM IMPORTED GRASS (ALSO CALLED CANNABIS + MARIJUANA) + THE POTENCY OF PLANTS IS MAINLY DEPENDANT ON THE POTENCY OF THE "PARENT" PLANT... SO USE SEEDS FROM THE MOST POTENT GRASS AVAILABLE... IF YOU ASK AROUND, YOU'LL EVENTUALLY FIND SEEDS! S. AFRICAN SEEDS ARE BEST FOR THE IRISH YEAR BECAUSE THE PLANTS FLOWER EARLIER THAN OTHER TYPES

OUTTA CONTROL SUPPLEMENT

JUSTICE (IS A MYTH)



AT PRESENT, IN NORTH OF IRELAND,
(U.K. LAWS) IT IS ILLEGAL TO POSSESS,
SUPPLY OR CULTIVATE CANNABIS,
CANNABIS RESIN OR ANY OTHER FORM
OF CANNABIS.

CANNABIS IS CLASSED AS A CLASS "B"
DRUG.

SENTENCES (FOR YOUR PROTECTION?)
Possession - 1st time - 3 months or \$500
FINE OR BOTH.
After 1st time - 5 years or fine
OR BOTH.



Production 1st time - 6 months OR
(cultivation) \$1000 FINE OR BOTH.

AFTER 1ST TIME - 14 YEARS OR
A FINE OR BOTH.

SUPPLY - 1st Time - 6 months OR
\$1000 OR BOTH.

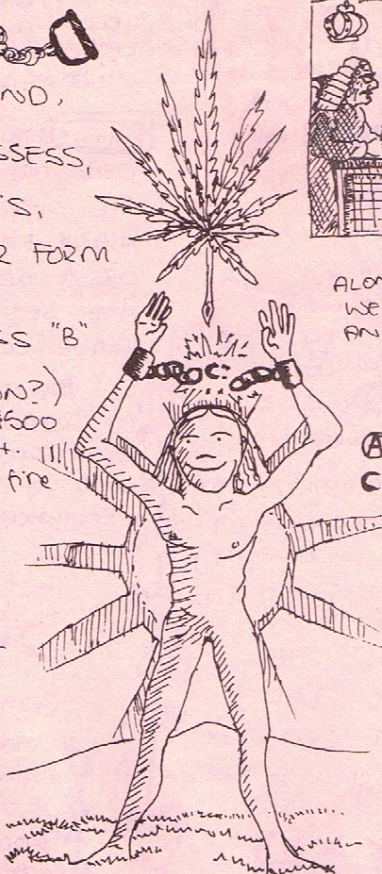
AFTER 1ST TIME - 14 YEARS OR
FINE OR BOTH.

THESE LAWS TAKE THE CHOICE OF SMOKING
CANNABIS, OR USING ANY DRUGS, AWAY FROM
PEOPLE. IT IS YOUR CHOICE - CALLING DRUGS
DANGEROUS + LOCKING THE WHOLE AFFAIR
AWAY, LIKE THE DRUG SQUAD WANT TO DO, ONLY
CAUSES PROBLEMS + PUTS PEOPLE IN JAILS -
SMASH THE LAWS, THEY'RE WRONG.

NO MATTER WHAT THE LAWS ARE,
PEOPLE WILL DO WHAT THEY WANT,
SO WHY PUNISH ANYONE?

THE D.S. SAY THEY DON'T WANT TO BUST
"ONE-TIME USERS" OR "EXPERIMENTERS".
THIS HAS BEEN SHOWN TO BE
SHIT. THEY'LL BUST ANYONE!

VALIUM + OTHER BARBITURATES
(WHICH, BY THE WAY, ARE DEFINITELY
ADDICTIVE) ARE DOLED OUT BY
DOCTORS FOR ANYTHING FROM PAINS
+ HEADACHES TO SERIOUS DEPRESSION...
MANY PEOPLE DIE EACH YEAR FROM
ACCIDENTALLY OR PURPOSELY TAKING OVERDOSES
OF THESE CHEMICALS... NO-ONE HAS EVER
DIED FROM AN OVERDOSE OF CANNABIS, IN ANY FORM.



I SMOKED CANNABIS BECAUSE
I ENJOY IT. GROWING IT IS
A CHEAP WAY TO GET IT!
THE CHOICE IS
MINE - NOT
YOURS!

GUILTY

IT IS NOT IN YOUR
PLACE TO CRITICIZE THE
LAWS. THEY EXIST FOR
YOUR PROTECTION.
BESIDES I'VE BEEN
SENTENCING PEOPLE
FOR YEARS FOR
CANNABIS CHARGES.
THEY CAN'T BE WRONG.

THIS YOUNG PERSON
IS OBVIOUSLY
DEPRAVED,
EVIL + PSYCHOL-
OGICALLY ILL.
14 YEARS!
NEXT!

WHEN ARRESTED, THE DRUG SQUAD WILL WANT YOU TO PLAY
ALONG WITH THE "INNOCENT, ONCE ONLY USER" IMAGE, SAYING THAT YOU
WERE "SEDUCED" BY DRUG "PUSHERS" AND ARE NOW VERY SORRY
AND THANKFUL TO HAVE YOUR EVIL WAYS CORRECTED.

THIS IS OFTEN THE CASE - SAY NOTHING:

IF YOU STAND UP IN COURT + SAY WITH YOU LIKE + USE DRUGS, YOU'RE
LIABLE TO GET JUMPED ON + HUNG!

ANOTHER
CHAIN TO
BREAK!



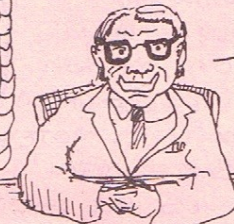
ONLY A PLANT
(+ A LOT OF PREJUDICE)
FEARS, THROW IN A FEW
RIDICULOUS LAWS, A LOT
OF SHIT + THAT'S IT!

HELP If you get bust, phone "RELEASE"
0 IN LONDON [01-603 8664]

THIS IS THE 24-HOUR EMERGENCY NUMBER
RELEASE MAINLY HELP PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN
BUST FOR CANNABIS OFFENCES + CAN GIVE YOU
ADVICE, HELP, SUPPORT + HELP GET YOU LAWYERS.
OR - phone JUST BOOKS [BELFAST 25426]

BETWEEN 10AM - 6PM ON WEEKDAYS + SATURDAYS -
WHATEVER HAPPENS, DEMAND YOUR RIGHT TO
MAKE A PHONE CALL IN THE POLICE STATION,
+ IF THIS REQUEST IS GRANTED, GET HELP
FROM SOMEWHERE....
ALSO, GET TO KNOW YOUR "RIGHTS"

BEFORE YOU GET BUST - IT CAN HELP!
LEGAL SUPPLY:



I KNOW'S WHAT'S BEST FOR
YOU! JUST TAKE 10 VALIUM
EVERY 2 HOURS, PULL YOUR
CURTAINS, SWITCH ON THE
T.V. + EVERYTHING 'LL
BE FINE!

BIG DOC

IF YOU ARE ARRESTED OR
QUESTIONED ON DRUGS
CHARGES, TRY TO REMAIN
SILENT. YOU HAVE A



"RIGHT" TO DO THIS. IF, AS A RESULT
OF "ACCIDENTLY FALLING DOWN
STAIRS", YOU FEEL INCLINED TO
TALK, STICK TO WHAT CONCERNS YOU.

THEY TOO CAN FIX
YOU UP WITH A LAWYER.

outta control

**News & Views of the
Belfast Anarchist Collective**

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW
MORE ABOUT THE BAC...
WRITE: BAC, c/o
7 MINSTER ST.,
BELFAST

OUTTA CONTROL... of the state, bosses, patriarchy, schooling, churches... As Anarchists we oppose the authority and exploitation of this society, and advocate one of FREE association and self-management. This paper comes out every four weeks and we welcome contributions, criticisms etc.

MARCHES, RIOTS AND FUNERALS

Bobby Sands, from Belfast, died on May 5th, 66 days after beginning a hunger strike for political status in Long Kesh prison. One week later on the 12th, Francis Hughes, from Co, Derry, died after 59 days. As we go to press, Raymond Mc Creesh and Patsy O'Hara are reaching a very critical stage of their strike.

The funerals were the biggest ever shows of support for the campaign for political status with crowds of 75,000 at the first and up to 50,000 in Bellaghy.

HARASSMENT

Francis Hughes family were harassed and insulted by the RUC, who hijacked the coffin to avoid areas where crowds had gathered to pay their last respects. The RUC, incidentally, failed to stop the hearse from being stoned at Belvoir Park.

His funeral was prevented from passing through Bellaghy village by the RUC, with lorry loads of Brits backing them up. The Belfast buses, returning home, were stoned in Portlengone by Loyalists, and several people injured. The only action the RUC took was to fire plastic bullets at those who left the buses to drive off the stone throwers.

PROTESTS

The deaths resulted in days of sustained rioting. But for several reasons these have not had the affect of the 'general level of lawlessness' which forced the British to grant political status in the early 70s.

BURN A BUS FOR IRELAND

From 69 onwards there was a massive shift in the population due to sectarian attacks. People were forced to abandon their homes and now live in well defined ghettos.

The security forces are content at present to contain the violence 'to an acceptable level' and within the ghettos. They are happy to let property and cars be burnt within the areas. There is little commercial or industrial property left to worry about protecting anymore.

On the 21st May, both Raymond Mc Creesh and Patsy O'Hara died on their 60th day of hunger strike. Brendan Mc Laughlin, after only 6 days into his strike was taken to a Belfast hospital with a burst ulcer. He refuses medical treatment.

NO GO, NOT ON.

No Go areas may have been possible in the early 70s when the Brits didn't quite know how to react to a situation where hundreds of people were behind the barricades. But any attempt to erect barricades now, results in armoured saracens periodically crashing through them and later removing them permanently with armoured bulldozers and cranes.

An exception seems to be the Divis flats complex which kept the Brits and RUC out for several days. The unusual geography and sense of community were mainly responsible.

RIOTS FOR RIOTERS

The nature of rioting has changed over the last few years. Most people feel hesitant and afraid about getting involved when live rounds are periodically used by the Brits and RUC.

Though petrol bombers can 'legitimately' be shot with lead, recently plastic bullets are used. These can be just as lethal and have already resulted in several deaths. Their use has the advantage of not bothering the liberal conscience and not stirring up too much media attention as a result of possibly dozens being killed.

CROPPIES DOWN

A local demonstration in the Lower Ormeau area after Bobby Sands death resulted in the RUC firing plastic bullets into the crowd of children, men and women who were peacefully protesting. Not because the RUC feel threatened but just to give people a taste of things to come if they step out of line. This tactic frightened some from picketing the next day.

IRON FIST

But even in this small area of about 7 streets they are forced to deploy large numbers of RUC and set up base in a cricket ground in the centre of the community to keep a continuous eye on things. However the youth of the area bravely resisted the RUC for several nights of running battles.

cont. on p.4



It's not news to be saying that the working people of Ireland, North and South are more and more dependant on big firms — multinationals — whose one over-riding purpose is to make as much profit as possible for the few big shareholders, pay as low wages as possible, think as little as possible about the nature of the work, and care as little as possible about the pollution of all living creatures and their environment. A depressing scene without a doubt. And the more we examine these multinational corporations, the more we see their local, national and international connections, the more we realise just how much they rule over and control our lives, our habits and our thinking. But likewise, the more we realise we're being messed about, the more we'll react against it — because we'll have to!

Rio Tinto Zinc (RTZ) is one such corporation operating in Ireland. They are exploring for and mining minerals the world over, from Africa to Australia, from Europe to America. They've been looking for uranium in Donegal since 1976, and have just recently been granted an exploration license by the N.Ireland Office (Min. of Commerce) to look for minerals — including uranium — in the Sperrins area of Tyrone...an area stretching from Strabane to Draperstown. Sounds like a few extra jobs in these times of recession, but jobs we could well do without!

RTZ are notorious for their treatment of people and the environment — anything that could hinder their work in extracting minerals and selling them is obliterated, no matter what our need, no matter what purpose. They've been operating illegally in 'SW Africa' (Namibia) for years, extracting uranium from huge tracts of land... paying starvation wages and uprooting communities, spreading radioactivity, to get at the uranium... essential for the nuclear war economy of many European countries, and in particular, Britain. Irrespective of protest, ignoring a United Nations ban on their activities, the company press ahead (aided by all the Western govts who buy the uranium....and not surprisingly, Fianna Fail consistently vote in favour of the big 5 [GB, France, USA, Japan, and Germany] at the UN, against any move to halt RTZ operations). The most unscrupulous, corrupt, power-tripping, callous bunch of directors that exists. (It can come as no surprise that leading personalities from all of the big British political parties are on the RTZ board of directors,



One of the many marches up the Falls

cont. on back page

I Can't Bear It

POLITICS

unately it's **ALL TRUE!**

PROSECUTOR SCHILLING
STATIS - ANWALTSCHAFT
PODFACH FRANKFURT 6000
FALL STAATS GS 4677D

ARREST IN GERMANY
BRENDA CHRISTIE, FROM CLEVELAND, OHIO, WHO BEGAN ADDRESSING THE CHARGES YES, BUT IT IS BECAUSE OF HER ANTI-TRANSPORT RECORD, SHE HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN LIFTED FROM BE-
LEAVED DURING THE ANKARA BOMBING TRIALS. MEMBERS OF PROTEST TO THE
ATTORNEY ADDRESSES SHOULD BE SENT. THE SPIRIT OF FRANZOSHI UNITS ON.

ANARCHISTS ARE CRIMINALS

The charge of "criminal" was the conclusion of Michael O' Riordan of the Communist Party, speaking at a day long seminar, "The Spanish Civil War," organised a week ago by the Workers' Education Association.

As one of the guest speakers his topic consisted of a litany (read from his book, "The Connolly Column") of the group of 150 men who went to Spain in '36 to fight for the government forces against a military rebellion which had the backing of the Catholic Church.

The seminar began with the showing of an RTE programme on the Irish who went to Spain. Not only did 150 Republicans and Communists make the journey (60 of them dying in battle), but 150 "good Catholics" went off under General O' Duffy to help the fascists. This latter group ignominiously returned after a mistaken skirmish with their own side!

This video was followed by a talk from Joe McMinn on the various novels which took the Spain of that period as their theme.

In the afternoon session, Mick Cox suggested that the Spanish war was determined by the super-powers of the day — fascist Germany and Italy on one side and the Communist USSR on the other, with the "democracies" of France and Britain playing an obstructive role. Because of the USSR's role of wooing these governments into an alliance against Nazi Germany, they felt it necessary to contain any revolutionary upheaval in Spain which would threaten the bourgeoisie of these countries.

After the lectures a discussion began which led to the slander usually propagated about the Spanish working-class, and especially the Anarchists, by the Communist Party.

The rebellion, which was sparked off by the Generals' rebellion and the faltering of the Republican government led to one of the largest scale examples of workers' control in history. Factories, transport, bakeries, health services and security patrols were taken over by members of the largest workers organisation — The CNT (Anarcho-Syndicalist), and the UGT (Socialist). Similarly, the peasants collectivised the large estates of absentee landlords and produced food from previously fallow land, with modern equipment which was too expensive for individual farmers. Women organised in a way which took them nearer emancipation in all areas — social, sexual and economic, than in any other socialist revolution.

However, this was all branded as being "criminal" by O'Riordan. In fact the accusations he made conjured up a strange

spectacle — That the 1.5 million CNT'ers were "petty-bourgeois" and "individualistic"; Proof of this individualism was that they wouldn't march in step!

Further allegations were that they avoided fighting the fascists; stayed at home and played with workers control; stabbed the government in the back during the May Days of '37, and finally handed over Barcelona to the Fascists without firing a shot. The CP see the best form of defence as attack, and their role during the war/revolution has brought them much criticism — everything from starving the fronts of weapons to assassination of opponents at the rear.

These are dealt with amply elsewhere, so this space will reply just to O' Riordan's accusations. As for the May Days, the UGT and CNT workers in the Barcelona Telephone Exchange had taken it over soon after the revolution. The government (a coalition of reformist parties and leaders, including the Communist Party) sent the assault guards from Valencia to kick them out. When word of the attack spread, barricades were erected in the workers' district, with CNT and POUM (Trotskyist) militants to the forefront. Hundreds of workers lost their lives in the ensuing battle, before those who had established themselves in a position of power (in the UGT) and of influence (in the CNT) sold them out.

If the Anarchists stayed at home, who defeated the military uprisings in Spain's three most important centres — Barcelona, Valencia and Madrid? Most of the Anarchists joined Malitias and fought in many fronts, but these were later absorbed into the hierarchical government army.

The most famous example of the Malitias was one of 3000 CNT'ers formed into the Durrutti Column, which marched to Zaragoza, helping out struggles on the way. But they got bogged down on the Aragon front as Zaragoza was taken before they got there, and was heavily fortified.

The column next went to Madrid, where it fought with the International Brigades and the local population in the unsuccessful attempts at resisting the encircling fascist troops. In fact Durrutti himself was killed here.

As for Barcelona being handed over, the surrender was given because of the hopelessness of sacrificing any more lives, and the resultant wave of revenge and repression which was expected from the fascist forces.

Other documents cover the role of the Communist Party, such as "Homage to Catalonia" by George Orwell, and "The Spanish Labyrinth" by Gerald Brenan. But maybe O'Riordan would like to say who assassinated Camillo Berneri, the well known Italian anti-fascist, and Andres Hui, the POUM leader?

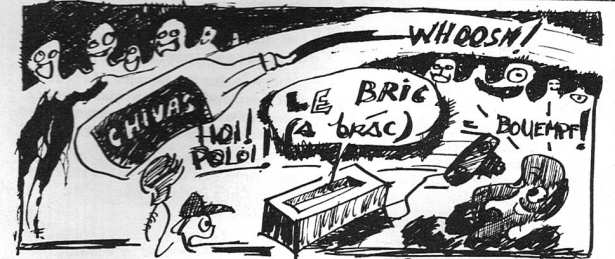
LETTER

Dear friends,

You may be interested to know of a little action in my old hotel (prison). Five provos went up to the roof at Long Lartin (4/5/81) and stayed there for seven days as a protest about Bobby Sands. Also another prisoner (who I didn't know, but I don't think he's Irish) was reported in the local paper as being on hunger-strike for two weeks, demanding equal remission rights for English prisoners with those in prisons in the six counties. His name is Michael Birch. Getting half-remission brought in over here (you only get one third in England) and the other 'privileges' (like food parcels) that exist over your way would actually be the biggest thing in prison reform since they got rid of the treadmill. . . it would mean also, that a large number of the Republican prisoners in English nicks would be OUT.

Stay on your toes, P.

The 'privileges' exist here for 2 reasons — one is to try and buy off the prison protests, and the other is to counter-balance the Emergency legislation of no juries, etc.



Fire-bombs chased by their own luminous tails out of the dark of Divis Flats. A few ould fellows, aged about 35, warming themselves by the burning Ford Escort. Stones banging down the lids on the RUC jeeps. Brits sneaking plastic bullets into peoples faces. Images not lost on the stroboscopic flash-guns or the infra-red filters. Images caught for Sunday breakfast supplements, liberally sprinkled with Brittle toast, or for the sterile waiting-room of Comrade Dentist in the sleek suburbs. Two photo-journalists trying to snap the same image on the same spot. Two onto

one brick won't go. No queue. I was here first! No, I was! Shit! Geroff! Push a shove. Shove a push. All fall down. Stand up and fight! Fist-bang-bang. Two photo-journalists bashing the light cells outta one another's brains. A cauffle not lost on the honest-to-goodness rioters. Ceasefiring! Maybe pick up a pointer or two. The young persons gather round in a circle. The first daft birds of dawn begin chirping. It is not often a body is treated to an inter-continental war on a body's waste ground. Up the ante!

cont. from front page

GROUPS AND COMMUNITY

While thousands turned out for Bobby Sands funeral, the problem still remains how can this passive support become active?

There still is a gap between the militants (the left and relations of the prisoners) and the community. Too rarely the hunger strike meetings are not advertised enough and communication from the committees tend to be very poorly produced on both a technical and information level.

Some of the problems which arise from a community under pressure need to be faced up to — sectarianism, destruction within the community, arrests and death. Although many of these may be uncomfortable to deal with, it has to be done to retain the support of the community.

SINGLE ISSUE?

The campaign should not be narrowly seen as a case of the prisoners getting their demands, but also whether a community can act together, in cooperation, and work towards the longterm welfare of that community which takes up issues of the RUC, housing, city hall, and indeed the very existence of the sectarian state.

TROOPS IN!

More British troops have been sent to the north to reinforce the UDR and RUC. They have not been brought in to deal with the 'wave of terrorism', as we are often led to believe, but in the repression of the thousands of people who would otherwise have swept aside years ago the sectarian state.

The RUC, UDR, and SAS units could probably contain the armed struggle, but it would always take thousands of troops to deal with an insurgent population. They cloak themselves under the guise of peacekeepers.

SOUTH AWAKES?

With a pattern emerging of riots erupting after each death, and isolated bomb and gun attacks, there is very little room to manoeuvre with such a concentration of police and army.

On the day of Bobby Sands funeral a new consciousness seemed to be taking hold as many towns along the border counties closed down completely.

And on the night of Francis Hughes death a crowd of 2000 clashed for a short time with the Garda outside the British embassy. The following night, petrol bombs were thrown in O'Connell St.

As tension grows in the north and while more people attend the marches and funerals and more hurl a brick or a petrol bomb, it is in the south that the enormous potential lies (both in industrial and civil disorder) to change the stand of the British government.

LOVETT OR LUMPETT

Community politics academic, Tom Lovett (we're all in the same boat, chaps) has received a generous £75,000 grant from the rightwing Portuguese Gulbenkian Foundation which has been responsible for funding many counter-insurgent activities. He is setting up the 'Ulster Peoples College (Ulster as in the 6 counties). They will concentrate on providing the historical justification for the 2 nations theory and provide the ideological foundations and lend support to the UDA's independent Ulster idea (again minus 3 counties).

NATIONAL H-BLOCK COMMITTEE

At the last National Conference, called in an emergency 2 weeks ago, many issues arose which revealed the different tendencies within the movement.

The national committee began two years ago with a campaign to mobilize thousands onto marches and build political support by putting pressure on the parties north and south. All this was to win the 5 demands, and avoid an almost inevitable hunger strike.

But the strike began and so far 2 prisoners have died. The terms of reference have changed, but the committee still talk, print and encourage 'more mobilization, more pressure on the SDLP and Fianna Fail', etc. This despite the fact that marches alone are not enough, and there are no other suggestions as to what can be done after all this mobilization. Also pressure on the professional politicians can only result in them using the issue to their own political advantage.

The national committee (made up of Sinn Féin, P.D., and notable public figures) seem as remote from the local committee feelings as ever. They disown many of the riots, and in Dublin called off a march on the day of Francis Hughes funeral. Two days earlier a group of demonstrators broke away from the main march and destroyed up-market shop windows in Grafton St. The H-Block committee again 'disowned' this and cancelled the next march as a sign of goodwill on their part; to whom — the capitalists and bosses of Dublin?!

MEDIA — THE GREY AND THE BLACK

When faced with crisis the media throws aside its carefully disguised 'balance of unbiased viewpoints' and shows its true colours (red, white and true blue). It ultimately reflects the interests of its owners, who want to retain their privileged positions.

In the north they publish 'black' propaganda, such as saying it was the IRA who shot the Ardoyne butcher, Martin, for not closing his shops after Francis Hughes funeral. The truth later came out that he had closed his shops and it increasingly looks like a sectarian murder.

There was also the example of claiming that Raymond McCreesh had asked for food, while in fact he had been deliberately confused by the medical staff.

The media also put out grey propaganda (half truths that cannot be substantiated) such as Chris Ryder's report in the Sunday Times (Slimes).

Instead of 14 year old Julie Livingstone being clearly murdered by a plastic bullet fired by the Brits, he suggests that 'other possible causes' were put forward by 'some surgeons'.

ATKINS TO LOSE SEAT?

Politicians can rest easy in their daily harassment of people, following the statement made by Edgar Graham of the Law Dept. Queens University. Following the death of Bobby Sands he said, 'Anyone who has been convicted of a terrorist offence is eligible for election to the House of Commons'... Presumably, if legislation is changed, quite a few MPs will have to forfeit their seats — Whitelaw, Joseph, Atkins Thatcher, Mason.....

cont. from front page

The Queen of England, through fiddling share deals, remains one of the biggest share holders, despite her claims to the contrary. Many of the British Universities hold shares (particularly the various colleges of the no.1 British establishment University, Cambridge), as do banks (and in particular the Bank of Ireland), many clergy men and local governments. The Ministry of Finance at Stormont holds 6,000 shares and the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland — 4,500 shares. These are the sort of people backing RTZ... backing a way of life that puts people and their needs bottom of the list of priorities.

The one ray of hope is that more and more people the world over are waking up to companies like RTZ... The 'Week of Action' against RTZ has links from America to Europe to Australia... a truly amazing display of solidarity. One 'week of action' won't stop RTZ — our whole life style will have to change to do away with all the RTZ's of this world — but it's a hopeful beginning. RTZ ARE ON THE WAY OUT.



Just as expected the British government has 'decided' to have no independent authority to protect us against the misuse of information held in government and commercial computers. It rejected all recommendations and now plans to sign a Council of Europe convention on data protection with the clever lie that the government itself will be the 'authority as to how the information is used' the decision was taken by that well known friend of the people, Willie Whitelaw operating from the Home Office. It is they who manage the national security industry exactly the same crowd who have millions of files on computer. The Home Office is our protection against the Home Office. Is it any wonder that so few people DID fill in their census forms? The government is so little trusted that even the RUC were reluctant to fill it in! And thousands were burned on the streets or in private. Government snooping is not appreciated.

But its hard to stop it—theres many more ways than through a census. Take the British Army computer, housed in Lisburn. It was set up in 1974, supposedly containing information only for the use of Army "intelligence" (sic), to monitor cars crossing the border. From such humble beginnings, (and even then, Merlyn Rees denied it's very existence!) it has come to get 65% of the people recorded...and in what detail we can but guess. It works by registering our name and date of birth or address, or car number, or information extracted when passing through a border check point....It reads out a pre-conditioned response...like "pick them up and take them in. Too bad! The British state is now anxious to increase such cover to passports, starting with the EEC passport we'll all need for travel by 1985.

HUNGER STRIKE IN GERMANY ENDS WITH SOME GAINS

April 16th. saw the ending of the German hunger strike after 66 days with the death of Sigurd Debus. It looks like the state has given in to the demands of some of the prisoners. The West German justice minister assured Amnesty International that none of the prisoners will be kept any longer in conditions of isolation but will be put together in several small groupings.

A COLLECTIVE HUNGER STRIKE

This latest hunger strike did not take place solely in German prisons, there were also three prisoners on hunger strike in Switzerland and Austria. The Red Army Fraction (RAF), 2nd. June Movement and some social prisoners had also gone on hunger strike around the same time with different demands, although each group declared solidarity with each other. Information on how the hunger strikes have developed is difficult to get since the media and state have had a near or total clampdown on such information.

ISOLATION TORTURE

All prisoners from militant backgrounds have been recognised as political or special prisoners in the way that the prison regimes have dealt with them. Over the past 4—5 years, the prisoners have been systematically isolated in special wings; alone, or in two's, making contact with other prisoners impossible.

Within this type of isolation the prisoners are being constantly watched by TV cameras, listened to by microphones, visits numbering one a month take place behind glass walls and are watched by prison officials, specialists of the criminal investigation bureau and psychologists. After each and every visit the prisoners have to undress and are subjected to body searches. The wings which they are kept in are sound proof as are the cells. All lighting is artificial and all walls are painted white. There is a 23 hour lock-up, although some are on 24-hours. These conditions amount to nothing less than brain washing and go a long way towards destroying health and life.

WHAT WE WANT!

The prisoners stated "In this situation, after having been isolated from each other, cut off from every political process and development and from the outside world, we are determined to make this separation come to an end by using the one effective means that we have: the collective hunger strike, in order to be able to survive as human beings and to get conditions necessary for a collective process of learning and

working."

Their demands on the state were "association in groups, no high security wings, the abolition of all forms of isolation and the release of two prisoners," one suffering from open tuberculosis and another suffering from severe brain damage as a result of a head wound received when they were first arrested.

"Scientifically Perfected repression"

As the hunger strike progressed, the prisoners were eventually force fed and surprisingly some doctors who were there to administer the feeding saw this as an attack on the prisoners. "Force feeding is not a medical solution but a method of force used to break peoples' resistance. In this situation, force feeding must be regarded as a direct attack on the lives of the prisoners."

Many of the prisoners were moved around between different prisons in an attempt to isolate them even further. Prisoners were hand-cuffed and tied down while force feeding was carried out. Some prisoners nearly suffocated, others had blood in their urine.

This type of scientifically perfected repression extended even into the death of Sigurd Debus. After being force fed in an attempt to break his resolve, Sigurd was placed on a life support machine, so that the authorities had final control over the moment of his death. Although his heart had stopped beating, he was kept "legally alive" for a further week until the machine was switched off.

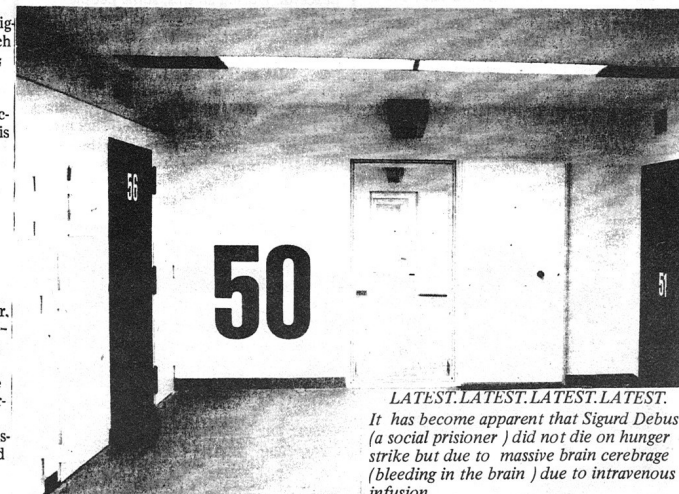
REACTIONS

News of his death brought riots and demonstrations to the streets of Berlin and the city was the scene of spontaneous attacks on shops and government buildings. In Frankfurt, a shopping centre was burned out, while in Dusseldorf, a car park was attacked and many cars were burned out. Churches were occupied in protest in several towns throughout West Germany, and in Hamburg a bomb wrecked the department of the University where research into isolation torture for use in West European prisons was being carried out.

COMPLICATIONS

Since May 1980, when Amnesty International produced its report on conditions for politically motivated prisoners in West Germany, the West German government has been pressurised by AI to discontinue special programmes of isolation. A possible outcome of the W.German governments deliberations might be the ending of 'total' isolation for a number of the prisoners, and the increased use of small group isolation. The West German state, however, has given no guarantees whatsoever, and the situation is further complicated by the division into federal states, with individual responsibility for the implementation of prison conditions. While in Berlin, Schleswig, Holstein, Stuttgart, Nordrhein-Westfalen authorities have already indicated that they are ready to consider 'concessions'—Dusseldorf and Rheinland Pfalz have so far refused to respond to protests.

Unfortunately, only time will tell whether the hunger strike has been successful or not — one major point worth noting is the extent to which the state and the media worked hand in hand. There was near total repression of any news. One local paper (about the equivalent of the Belfast Telegraph) carried only a small paragraph a few days before the death of Sigurd Debus and paradoxically had a half page news item on the Bobby Sands hunger strike, which was at a relatively early stage. The only time that the media gave any mentionable coverage was when the hunger strike had ended and the riots erupted. Then the headlines read "Smash the new Terrorists."



LATEST. LATEST. LATEST. LATEST.
It has become apparent that Sigurd Debus (a social prisoner) did not die on hunger strike but due to massive brain cerebrale (bleeding in the brain) due to intravenous infusion.

BROKDORF '81



Since 1976 the German government has been forced through massive resistance from the population, and a court case, to stop all the building at the nuclear power plant, Brokdorf. On Dec. 1st 1980, however, the court and the government decided to go ahead with the building. On the 21st December a rally was held at the site, where approximately 10,000 anti-nuclear demonstrators turned up. It was a peaceful protest, and there wasn't any kind of direct action. After the protest some short actions against institutions of the nuclear industry took place. On the 2nd. Feb, the SPD (Social Democratic Party) at Hamburg held a special meeting about Brokdorf, and four days later gave the final go-ahead for the building. From then on, Anti-Nuclear groups prepared for a demonstration to be held on the 28th. of February against the building. Preparations for it started all over Germany. There was a lot of work to be done, like organising transport facilities and printing leaflets and posters (co-ordination between all groups was made at some national meeting near Brokdorf, where the demands and aims were worked out:

No nuclear power in Brokdorf and elsewhere.

Stop nuclear energy in nuclear stations and weapons plants.

HEW (Hamburg Electricity Works) to stop their work for Brokdorf.

Release of all imprisoned anti-nuclear demonstrators & dropping of all charges.

Nearer the time of the demonstration, the state began to prepare its counteraction, and as usual, the media, press, government & security forces worked close together to 'protect law & order. They banned any demonstrations from the 28th. February to the 1st. March in Wilster Marsch (the area around Brokdorf), Stoltenberg. The Christian Democrats spread horror news in the papers and 'Bilo Am Sonntag' (Springerpress [notorious right-wing paper owner] sensation paper) carried headlines like "Brokdorf: Bombs, fires, hostages, Anti-Nuclear protesters to burn down farms and take farmers as hostages." This is only one example out of numerous

accusations. They painted pictures of the anti-nuclear people as violent murderous gangs, so that the police can get away with their beatings of people as an act of defence.

Days before the demonstration, the police started to prepare the area for the arriving masses, they destroyed parts of the ice which the area was covered in and took away road signs. Trains and bus services were told not to transport demonstrators. From the 27th Feb to March the 1st, demonstrators from Holland and Denmark were stopped from entering Germany. Friday night before the demonstration, people were faced with transport problems and long waits for lifts. A lot of people didn't get lifts and had to stay behind. Once they were on the road they were stopped at roadblocks by the police, who asked for I.D., took sticks, poles and helmets and basically tried to hassle people as much as possible. Finally, buses arrived in Wilster, and there was a lot of confusion which made co-ordination impossible. 'Cause the police were blocking the roads behind Wilster, vehicles had to park there and everybody had to walk, and it was still another 15km to Brokdorf.

On Saturday morning, Jo Leinen, one of the leaders of the BBU (central committee, friends of the earth type) managed through tactical arrangements to direct the march right to where a barricade of police sandbags was. Jo Leinen made a lot of demonstrators believe that this was the only way through to the site. The way to pass the police lines was to give personal information to the police and to get body searched. He stressed that 'peaceful demonstrators don't need to hide anything'. The aim of being 'friends with the police' was to keep the demonstration 'democratic and peaceful'. During all this, some people split and actually managed to get right to the broad waterditch in front of the fence. There was no way that they could use the ropes to get over the fence, cause the police were very quick and managed to force people back with teargas and water-cannons, they chased demonstrators around the fields and beat them up with their sticks. Because of the broken ice,

many people got stuck in the ice and had to give up, how many people were hurt is not known. As this was going on the rest of the marchers finished their demonstration and passively walked back, leaving the rest without any solidarity or help. 65 were arrested and were charged with "violation of public peace" and "assault."

After the demonstration was over, the media showed how peaceful it was. There was no mention of the violence the police used against demonstrators.

It was great to see how the demonstration attracted such a big crowd (over 80,000). It is good to have such big demonstrations at the sites every so often, simply to show the govt. that there are a lot of people opposing their nuclear plans. The problems at such large demonstrations are:

1. That the police are able to organise such a concentrated & powerful armed force, hard to overcome.
2. That it is difficult to find solidarity with all the people & the resistance is therefore reduced to individual acts (as a result, these are usually the most effective). The lack of solidarity with people who got chased and beaten up by the police at the demonstration was obvious.

One big demonstration is not enough, and not the only way for people to resist. There are other ways such as opposing atomic power in the cities, where the fundamental plans are made. Lots of different actions would integrate the fight into an everyday struggle against the state. There is a split in the anti-nuclear movement — there are the middle class "protectors of the earth" by all their means pacifist, they build the integrated type of resistance the state can afford. On the other side are those who have come to the conclusion that that the state is responsible for nuclear power, and to get rid of nuclear power you have to get rid of the state....

Another good development would be the coming together of the autonomous anti-nuclear groups with other autonomous movements like the squatters, military service resisters etc... as an act of solidarity so as not to be isolated by the state.



Gaining Ground

OUTTA CONTROL

ANARCHA-FEMINIST NEWS

The right to vote, or equal civil rights, may be good demands, but true emancipation begins neither at the polls, nor in courts. It begins in woman's soul. History tells us that every oppressed class gained true liberation from its masters through its own efforts. It is necessary that woman learn that lesson, that she realise that her freedom will reach as far as her power to achieve her freedom reaches.
EMMA GOLDMAN 1911



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THE MAY-DAY MARCH
or confrontation for beginners

This year's May-day march - that one day a year when workers are actually 'allowed' to take to the streets, 'guarded' by the RUC, once again proved the point that as far as worker solidarity goes, don't depend too much on it in Northern Ireland.

The march began with the usual speeches and also the usual confrontation with the RUC. Before the speeches were half over the police in their usual manner 'blunt and to the point' had lifted 7 people. You would have been forgiven for thinking that these people were all armed with armalites, had you seen the way they were dealt with. In fact all they were doing was giving out leaflets about H-block and Bobby Sands - to the RUC, that's enough so bent were they on not letting any mention of Sands or the blocks sully the peace of a Saturday morning in the city centre of Belfast.

Well then how did the trade union movement, those champions of democratic rights react to this denial of those same rights? They went on with the march - although several stewards did try to intervene, the leadership and the broad mass of the march just didn't want to know.

On went the march along Royal Avenue and around the city hall, the scene of the next incident. At this point one of the wily H-block supporters determined to cause trouble for the defenders of law and order, started giving out leaflets. This had been bad enough at York St where the march had started - treason in front of the city hall! No less than 2 police landrovers and about ten policemen swarmed on the protester. At this point the secretary of the Belfast Trades Council went over to intervene, and she too was lifted on the grounds that no one can question the RUC about anything they care to do. Some people who had seen the incident called on the marchers - still gaily marching on to the workers state, to do something - these workers responded

immediately - with shouts of 'fuck off' - so much for worker solidarity.

Totally enraged many women and men demanded that Terry Carlin do something in his capacity as secretary of the ICTU. This he did by approaching the police to release the secretary of the trades council as this was clearly a 'mistake'. He failed to mention the 8 others who were also lifted, these presumably were not mistakes? Around 40 people followed the trade union women's banner to Musgrave St station much to Carlin's dismay, to demand the immediate release of the people detained. The crowd were met by an equal number of RUC who were abusive and violent to what was a peaceful protest. They kicked, thumped, shouted, and attempted to break the arms and fingers of some of the protesters, and then they seized the banner itself. The secretary of the trades council was released 2 hours later. The other 8 were held for over 48 hours charged with obstruction. When their cases came up the following Tuesday they got off every charge, but they got no compensation for their mini-interment. The RUC have been going on much as usual since the event. If you're planning to go on any marches in the future, particularly trade union ones here are a few hints that you may find helpful.

DO be sensible about clothing-

DON'T wear anything they can grab, we would recommend a leotard and tights, a diving suit, or perhaps naked is the best policy.

DO wear strong shoes, industrial steel toecaps are advised otherwise you may have a few broken toes - there are a lot of heavy RUC men-women.

DO wear your hair short, cut it to about one inch all over, or better still shave your head that way the RUC cannot pull it.

DO keep your hands firmly in your pockets at all times otherwise they will charge you with assault.

Other things to note:

DON'T depend on 'workers' to come to your aid, especially the trendy lefty types who dust their badges down once a year and spend the rest of the year reading and writing about the working class.

DON'T carry anything - cameras, plastic bags (especially if they have green on them), paper hankies, etc., are all likely to be offensive weapons and you'll get charged accordingly.

DON'T assume that you have any rights - you have none.

DON'T assume that the RUC aren't out to get you - you would be wrong again.

BARRICADING THE MIND

For the past three weeks or so, life has become more and more tense in the North. The RUC and British Army have dropped their so called low profile approach of recent times, arresting over 120 people and detaining them for anything up to seven days, beating and firing plastic bullets at people whenever and wherever possible as a substitute for live ammunition. The British Government through the spectre of Humphrey Atkins and their mass media have been scaring people to death with some of the most incredible headlines and announcements about plans to raze the Short Strand, about the inevitable bloodbath which was to follow the death of Bobby Sands and that families in West Belfast are stockpiling food for the outcome of a long campaign—who can afford to stockpile food in such quantities these days? In an atmosphere of such fear, ignorance and intransigence on the part of the British State, how many women like my friend's neighbour are literally eating the valium these days?

With well over three quarters of a million prescriptions for tranquilisers handed out each year mostly to women who have been diagnosed as anxious, depressed and tense and a further half a million 'hypnotic' prescriptions (barbiturates—sleeping tablets) and this in a population of one and a half million people, you can be sure that the number is quite staggering! Not all are prescribed because of the

troubles of course. Valium and Librium are the cheap and easy modern cure all for anyone who can't cope with appalling housing conditions, unemployment, no social amenities, domestic violence, the cost of staying alive these days and the pressures of urban life: they blot out your problems and although you are reduced to the walking dead you can still carry on with your 'normal everyday life'.

WHAT EXACTLY IS THE WONDER DRUG VALIUM?

It makes you more laid back, divorced from the reality in which all of us are forced to live. By acting directly on the anxiety centres of the brain and on the spinal cord, reactions are dampened down and muscles relax. In relation to other drugs like morphine for example, there is rarely a physical addiction but as physical and psychological roots are not easily separated, it is quite easy to become dependent on it. Some people, especially the old, get drowsy and confused, some suffer from headaches, blurred vision and a dry mouth. These days it is more common for a doctor to prescribe Mogodon (a stronger form of Valium) as a sleeping pill. Again it is less physically addictive than the usual barbiturates or other types of sleeping tablet but can be just as hard to give up.

Valium doesn't cause cancer, but there is evidence to suggest it can promote it by making cancer tumours grow more quickly. Many doctors do prescribe it to patients who have cancer and who are naturally anxious, so they may well be making the disease worse. The researcher who made the studies has been denied funding four times on the grounds that further research was 'not worth doing' and was fired from the Clinical Research Institute of Montreal for talking about his work to the press.

CHILDBIRTH AND AFTER

Tranquilisers are not just prescribed to those of us who can't cope with life without them. They are, for instance, commonly administered during the first stage of labour to take the edge off contractions. The effects on the baby are well known and also quite common. The baby's breathing becomes sluggish and valium can interfere with the baby's ability to cope with cold stress and may cause jaundice. Other tranquilisers in common use include Sparine with Nisental (a narcotic) and Phenergan which may cause the labour to slow down or stop altogether. After the baby is born every mother is doled out a ration each day of painkillers and sleeping tablets.

This practice of handing out tranquilisers continues if a woman suffers from post natal depression. Instead of seeing her as a woman isolated and overwhelmed at home with a demanding new born baby, unsure of what is the best thing to do, lacking emotional support and assistance, they see her as some sort of neurotic woman who doesn't have the right instincts to be a good mother. It becomes the woman's fault if she can't cope.



BORED HOUSEWIFE SYNDROME

This leads us into the whole area of housework, the crushing boredom of it all enclosed in a world which has meaning only for the person in it. If a woman cannot live up to the ideal, that excessively houseproud caricature, then she becomes a failure in the eyes of her family and the State and her inability to carry on and the stress she is under can all too easily lead to tranquilisers. Feelings of lifelessness and exhaustion from the lack of stimulation in the home ensue, and maybe also because women are unconsciously 'on strike' and the only way they can signify that the work is oppressive and too much is by complaining of being tired all the time.

LIFE MAY BEGIN AT FORTY FOR THE FILM STARS BUT FOR MANY WOMEN IT DOESN'T BEGIN AT ALL

The medical profession doesn't feel it has done its job right if it hasn't bombarded every pregnant woman with scientific and technological know how and equipment. It is even acceptable for the young pregnant woman to suffer some 'emotional instability'. Not so for the woman coming to the end of her fertile years..... in a word the medical profession *ignores* these women. They are fobbed off with Valium and painkillers. And yet this is the time in a woman's life which can be the most traumatic, and certainly there is more likelihood of suffering depression at this time than at any other. Apart from the physical symptoms, the hot flushes which occur mostly at night disturbing sleep, and the reality that one is an 'ageing' woman, menopause often coincides with the time when a woman's youngest children are leaving home. What does society expect a woman to do after her children have left home? Those of us who do not have a 'worthwhile and satisfying' job in the outside world are faced with redundancy. Our assignment to be sex objects and then mothers, is finished. Everything that was expected of us by our families and friends, by the State, mass media and the Church has been done. And the logic is that if you do as you are told you get a reward.

And what a reward...the most soul and mind



destroying of jobs and also the lowest paid, cleaning hospitals, offices, factories, other people's houses—it is no small wonder that some women end up feeling useless and worthless and not allowed by definition to become hostile to their families, and seeing no other outlet for them, turn the resentment inwards and become depressed.

BETA BLOCKERS

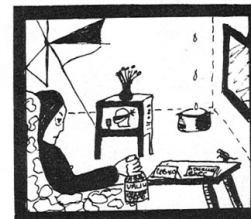
These amazing little pills have suddenly become a subject of interest. They have been doled out for the past twenty five years to treat heart and circulation problems but they have an added value to the medical profession—they can alleviate anxiety and are 'less addictive' than tranquilisers like Valium. But how can one crutch be less addictive than another if you just can't get through the day without it? As yet only propranolol, an ICI product, is officially licensed for treating anxiety, but with the enormous profits to be made from tranquilisers, these pills will rapidly appear on the market to treat depression.

These drugs act differently on the body—apparently, whenever we are anxious, afraid and tense the body's defense mechanism pumps more and more blood to the heart and the arms and legs so that if we want to make a quick exit we can. Chemicals like adrenalin, for example, aid this flow of blood. They flood the body, particularly the heart's muscle cells and the blood vessels to stimulate them—hence that thumping heart. From such a graphic description you will be able to guess what propranolol does—it cancels it all out, not totally safely, nor without side effects and anyone suffering from asthma and any other breathing difficulty had better forget about them altogether.

PERSONAL CURE—COLLECTIVE SOLUTION?

It is difficult to know what to say to the woman on Roche 10, spaced out of her head. With people dying round you, the obvious and brutal repression of the State, the blatancy of unemployment and poverty and the peddling of pills by the medical profession, such statements about a future society based on people's needs seem idealistic and distant. And yet we will always need props like Valium et al, like excessive drinking, cigarettes, sleeping tablets, to help us serve our time make profits for multi national companies and to save the medical establishment time and energy because by prescribing them they neither have to talk or listen to their patients.

We can all gain help and solidarity from meeting and talking to other women in consciousness raising groups and self help groups. By realising that we do not have individual problems but that these are common to all, we will be nearer the solutionthe control of our own bodies in a society where all people are free.



WE'VE DECIDED HUNGER STRIKE

Gaining Ground is no longer a woman's supplement to Outta Touch!!! (Stoics please note).

The idea of the first supplement was to celebrate International Women's Day and to sound out whether or not we had the support and the resolve to produce a monthly paper. We were tentative about it; having been in various women's groups in the seventies, we knew that we didn't want a paper which would be irregular and consequently out of date very often.

We were a bit taken aback by all the encouragement to make it into a permanent paper in its own right and were glad of the criticism and the unexpected compliments: its good to have that feedback to keep us on our toes! There has not been a feminist paper in the North for over a year now and whatever may be decided in the future, for the present Gaining Ground will try to fill the gap.

But Gaining Ground is firmly rooted in the place where it is written and produced—Belfast. We don't make any apologies for that because we feel the more local papers, newsletters, etc that women produce the better. Recently there has been talk about an all Ireland feminist magazine getting off the ground but we feel that firstly as there has been no Northern Irish one in quite a while and the chances are very remote and we are not so sure that that would be the best thing for the women's movement. Too much work has yet to be done at the basic grassroots level before we go on to greater things.

One possibility that we hope will be in circulation by June is the publication of a Northern Irish feminist newsletter for women only giving details, news and events of issues of interest to women. If you feel you have anything to contribute send it off to Women's Newsletter, Women's Centre, 18 Donegall Street, Belfast or also if you would like to receive it — its £1.00 for one years sub.

Remember too—we want contributions, letters, views, ideas as well— C/o 7 Winetavern Street, Belfast.

VIOLENCE

A Public Meeting is to be held in the near future on Domestic Violence and the new law, the Domestic Proceedings Order for Northern Ireland which came in on December 1st of last year. Most women don't realise the rights that they now have under this order within the courts and that they can now obtain Protection and Exclusion Orders. There are four refuges in Northern Ireland, for help and solidarity phone Belfast 662385 or 662348, Derry 69279 and 65969, Strabane 882261 and Portrush 823195 and 823182.

RVH Creche

The creche at the Royal Victoria Hospital reported last month in Gaining Ground is to have a new building within six months. In the meantime there is the problem of

During the hunger strike in Germany, which ended with the death of Sigurd Debus on the 16th April, there was a remarkable support from women.

At the beginning of the hunger strike prisoners relatives mostly mothers, occupied the Spiegel building and put out a resolution in support of the hunger strike.

A video was made and was then shown at a women's conference which was held by 'women against imperialist war' in Hamburg. Before the video was shown: women had already successfully stopped Mrs. Leithauser (Senator for Justice) to make her speech on women in jail (she is responsible for two prisoners being forcefed). Instead women started talking about the hunger strike. Impressed by the film over 300 women decided to make a spontaneous demonstration to the NDR (Radio station) to demand the broadcasting of the film on television.

UNITY MEETING

The May Women's Unity meeting was held a week later than usual because of the May Day march on the first week of the month. This may explain why the meeting was smaller than usual—but withstanding that the discussion was interesting and wide.

The main theme of the day was on the question of a creche for the meeting and then on creches in general. Some women are interested in setting up a similar organisation to the Dublin based 'Rent a creche' group. This group is made up of about twenty part time workers. The group will provide a creche for any organisation or group—their charge is £2 an hour for each worker needed, travel costs plus £5 for wear and tear on their equipment. For this they will provide all equipment needed—and they will charge reduced or sometimes no money for certain groups.

A group like this would be invaluable in Northern Ireland, as last Saturday all the children who were in the creche (3) were content as were their mothers in the meeting. At the end of the meeting a collection was taken up to pay for the worker and this would be possible at every meeting and at all women's meetings. Any women interested in helping even on the basis of a few hours per week with payment should contact the women's centre.

The meeting also discussed the newsletter which is now hoped to have ready by June and the council elections. A letter has been drafted on behalf of the Unity meeting and will go out to all political parties involved demanding specific action on women's issues.

The next unity meeting is on June 6th at 11.00 in Women's Centre—the theme Nuclear Power.

finding a building to hold the creche in the meantime as their existing building is needed for the handicapped, its original purpose. An appeal has been made for a six month postponement of the closure of the existing building by the 66 parents who use it.

TALKING TO DOMITILA

Domitila de Chungara, a Bolivian from the Altiplano, is the wife of a miner in Siglo XX. She has been arrested and tortured under each of the dictatorships which the Bolivian people have had to bear during the past ten years and on no less than three occasions she was taken whilst pregnant and miscarried as a result of torture. On 17th July when General Meza seized power in the last coup, Domitila was attending a conference parallel to the UN sponsored conference on women...when news of the coup broke, she burst into the latter conference to denounce the brutality of the Bolivian army and to issue an appeal for solidarity with the Bolivian people. The following interview has been translated from Bicieleta, Latin America, special issue 1980.

Ariane: We know that quite a few women have been arrested since the coup. How would you account for the fact that repression is also directed against women?

Domitila: In Bolivia, women have always played an important role in campaigns for social and economic betterment. For instance, Maria Barzola was killed along with demonstrating workers back in 1942. After that, in a more organised way women have been active in the mines since 1961. On 20 June 1961 a woman's organisation was set up for the first time in the mining towns...it became known as the Housewives Committee. It was formed out of the need to stand up against the repression and injustice then being visited on the labour movement. The fact was that those women's husbands were in prison. In desperation the women met in union rooms and decided to march together to demand the release of their menfolk in the hope that together they would be stronger and more successful. And so it occurred to them to go to La Paz and they mounted the first hunger strike which lasted for nearly nine days and secured the release of their menfolk. The women realised that organisation meant strength and so they decided to remain in touch with one another and pursue their struggle.

In Bolivia as elsewhere we were not used to women getting involved in other than the domestic affairs for which we had been educated. So the women in the group were criticised by other women and even by their men. Their little organisation would not last 24 hours, it was argued. But such was the determination of those comrades and their tireless devotion to their labours that they won and so over the past ten years the Committee has been as much a target for repression as any of the trade unions. Perhaps others too saw that union meant strength and that they posed a threat. And so they also repressed the women's organisations, the Housewives Committees.

Along with the Miners Federation and the underground Labour Central, COB, the women were the spearhead of the struggle and took charge of all the business, because their colleagues of the Miners Federation were not able to walk the streets as they were subject to persecution in 1976, 1977 and 1978.

At the end of 1977 after careful planning with the miners and the COB the women began the hunger strike which, effectively routed the Banzer regime. That strike lasted 21 days.

Having toppled that pseudo-democratic sham, the women and their colleagues were convinced that women were a real force to reckon with, and that the housewives needed to be organised, not just in Siglo XX but also in the countryside, in all the mining towns and in the cities. So they began to organise the peasant women as well and managed to hold a congress of peasant women attended by some 2000 representatives. This conference dealt with issues of every sort: political, social, and economic, everything. So much so that the congress discussed the problem of birth control, food prices, the high cost of living, and housing etc. Finally the federation

of peasant women affiliated to the COB.

We were not unconnected with what was going on in the mines. These were our sons, our men; we were their wives and daughters. There was no distinction between us. We all had our part to play.

Ariane: The involvement of Bolivian women in the struggle has altered their relationship with the men. Would it be true to say that you are no longer considered just household servants.

Domitila: Yes. I think there have been great changes, even though many people may not accept it. But most people do accept it. For instance we housewives have our own place and part to play in the trade unions. Whenever delegates meet, they represent just as much as they do the men. We all take an equal part in discussions. In Siglo XX we no longer face such discrimination in other areas though, discrimination still exists. I have seen such discrimination and have heard people say, 'No way, this is not an assembly of workers'. But what our comrades must understand and what the women have realised, is that exploitation is not just the lot of the worker and labourer but also that of a woman and her children. And we have seen the truth of that in our encampments and mining districts.

Ariane: So the growth of consciousness among women has been a slow and difficult process?

Domitila: There has been a great awakening among women over the past three years. Most of them have come to appreciate that they are being exploited. They knew that they suffered greatly but what we were told by the traditional church and religion, by our grandmothers and tradition? ...that this is how it has always been and must be so! The Church teaches that here in this life, one must suffer, otherwise this would not be this life but paradise. But there has been an awakening during the past three years. I think we are making huge strides forward. And this is at the root of the coup and the repression which is at this moment striking hard at workers, peasants, and women... because these are the backbone of the resistance, the source of the threat.

Ariane: Do you think the coup represents a threat to the growth of consciousness which has eased the move towards democracy?

Domitila: I don't think the people will give an inch. We have so many coups in Bolivia...but we have always fought back from clandestinity, always pursued the struggle. At least I have not noticed any retreat since I became 'aware'.

Ariane: Is it true that at the start of the hunger strike you did not get much support from the parties?

Domitila: Yes it is. Nobody wanted to support us. The political parties thought it inopportune. Even the people in the human rights league did not believe in us. The only ones who did were the Miner's Federation, and the COB. The heroes only turned up when it was all over... like the human rights people! Even when the strike was at its height they dared to make concessions... in our name! What's going on I asked myself, so they told me and Dr Siles Salinas told me: 'Ah but I must not let myself be compromised by extremists.' But doctor, I answered, 'it just so happens that we are the ones who are being compromised. Because my husband was not in jail and not one member of my family is in prison but I am still here on strike. Right? Then I am placing them in danger. So thanks, doctor thanks say no more and leave us to get on with our strike.' But the booklet published by the human rights league about the hungerstrike, makes no mention of us. No all it talks about are the priests and the Siles Salinas types.

Ariane: What is your chief concern at the present time?

Domitila: The campaign for the release of the union leaders, because they should not be locked up. Because even the law recognises their right of association and their trade union rights.

Ariane: How were you received at the Copenhagen conference?

Domitila: Badly. The police set about us whenever we tried to enter the official UN congress on women, where government representatives were sitting. The other conference involved non governmental organisations. I was invited to the latter conference. But imperialism intruded even into it. When the coup came I denounced it and we all made for the UN congress to make our voices heard there...and that is when the police attacked us.

Ariane: What we have been greatly and pleasantly surprised to discover in the homes of the Bolivian exiles whom we have visited is that everybody

joins in the discussions, political or otherwise, from the oldest to the youngest.

Domitila: Look the peasants in Oruro invited me to deliver a talk and organise lectures on trade unionism. I was a bit rash and said 'sure, I'll go along and talk to them about the women's issue. ...I'll pester them so that they will let their women go to the union meetings as well...and organise themselves.' And then what happens?

So I go along to the offices, quite big offices, the offices of Radio Oruro which used to belong to the priests, who then made a present of it to the peasants. So I go in and find that I am being introduced to a packed hall consisting of men and women and wawas (children). The there leader gets up and introduces me and says 'Comrade, please excuse us. We invited you here to lecture the menfolk but we have brought our women along with us too, for we are peasants and we follow in the footsteps of our forefathers and they involved their women in everything. So we want the women to fight at our sides. Except the wawas might bother us a little.' And I said, 'This is all right comrade: it is just as well that you did bring the women. I was all set to make your ears burn for not allowing them to come... instead it is my ears that are burning. And you might as well know that I never bring my children along to the lectures that I attend. You have certainly taught me a lesson. We had a great discussion.

Ariane: Did the peasant women speak up?

Domitila: Certainly! Indeed they did most of the talking. The menfolk were a bit quiet.

The peasants have clung to the Indian traditions more than the miners and workers. Especially regarding restraints on their leaders. The workers there told us "No sacred cows here. Nothing sacred here" So you get some stick if you deserve it. I don't know how many times I have heard them shutting up even comrade Lechin Chead of the COB at meetings. I remember how many a time they reduced us at the Housewives Committee meetings to tears. They took us to task and gave us good dressing down, but, it is true that sometimes we took a crazy line. Now I see that...little by little we have been learning better.



Outta Control

News & Views of the Belfast Anarchist Collective

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE BAC... WRITE: BAC, C/O TWINTEVERN ST., BELFAST.

OUTTA CONTROL... of the state, bosses, patriarchy, schooling, churches.... As Anarchists we oppose the authority and exploitation of this society, and advocate one of free association and self-management. This paper comes out every four weeks and we welcome contributions, criticisms etc.

REGINA V. REGINA'S SECTARIAN ASSASSIN

On Wednesday 10th June, RUC constable Robert McKeown stood trial for the murder of a sixteen year old, Michael McCartan. It is the first time that a member of the RUC has been charged with murder whilst on duty.

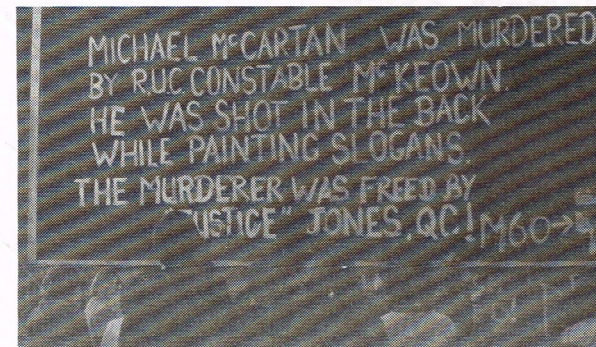
McKeown's acquittal came as no surprise to Michael's family and members of the Lower Ormeau community who attended the five-day trial. What else is to be expected when a member of the RUC comes before a court specially created to preserve the sectarian state. The crown prosecutor seemed unsure whether he was defending or prosecuting the accused and the judge, Mr Justice Jones, is an ex-British soldier, former unionist M.P. for Derry, and was a Stormont Attorney General. McKeown was brought to trial only because of pressure from the community who were horrified at the obviously sectarian nature of the crime and the police attempts to cover up for it. Protests were held on the Ormeau Road and the community organised a 'People's Tribunal of Inquiry'. Once again the Security Forces have asserted their right to kill unarmed civilians, secure in the knowledge that the Diplock Courts are prejudiced in their favour.

Michael McCartan was murdered on 23rd July 1980 about 10.25pm. He had been painting 'Provos' on a hoarding near the Ormeau Road. Three friends who were act as look-outs for him, warned Michael of a green Escort van which they knew to be a police vehicle. The van turned up a street off the Ormeau Rd. Michael put down the

back of Dromara St. where McKeown shot him. McKeown claimed that he had called out twice for Michael to stop but neither the three boys who had been with Michael nor three others playing cards under the bridge nearby heard these shouts. Only constable McDonald reported hearing them.

It was claimed that McKeown fired because he thought the paint brush Michael was holding when he turned around was a gun. He said he had heard there was a gunman in the area and that the lighting was poor. The forensic evidence showed that the bullet entered Michael's body at the left back. The defence claimed that Michael must have turned round before the bullet struck him. Evidence from the Electricity Services showed that there were strong lights switched on at 10.20pm. on the Ormeau Bridge and at the hoarding which shed light onto the place where Michael was shot. McKeown himself admitted that when he got out of the van the light was 'pretty fair' but minutes later when he drew his gun it was 'poor'. He could not remember whether the street lights were on.

If Michael stopped and was turning round why did McKeown open fire if the boy was only doing what he had been told to do. Michael passed within a few yards of McKeown so why did he not see the paint tin in one hand and the paint brush in the other. McKeown is an excellent marksman and did not need to shoot to kill. He stated that he had heard there was a gunman in the area, and also that he thought the



paint tin and brush. The three friends ran off. Unknown to them constable McKeown and McDonald had been observing them from the bottom of Dromara St. As the three boys left, McKeown crept along the back of Dromara St. and stood, gun in hand, with his back against the gable wall of a house fronting the Ormeau Rd. (Michael was painting the hoarding at the side of this house). Michael peeped around the corner but did not see McKeown so he picked up the paint tin and brush and made his way to the concrete path at the

white object Michael had was a bomb. He stated that McDonald had remarked that the boys looked as though they were going to high-jack a vehicle. Yet neither McKeown nor McDonald radioed for assistance.

The prosecution did not challenge the deliberately misleading statements made by the police that there was a gunman in the area nor the way the Lower Ormeau was referred to as the Upper Markets. Mr Justice Jones accepted everything the RUC

Continued on back page

CRASS

Creative Recording and Sound Services offered a free flexi-disc to IPC Publications who publish, amongst other crap, a teenage romantic magazine called 'Loving'. The disc, 'Our Wedding' was on offer to the readers of 'Loving' for the price of an 18p. stamp.

Needless to say they were fuming when they belatedly realised they had been conned into promoting a record by the Anarchist punk band CRASS who made the single. It is taken from their forthcoming album 'Penis Envy' which is a scathing attack on love and marriage. Released around the end of June it will be available from Just Books.

BRITISH ARMY ILLEGAL!

According to the latest 'State Research', the British Army has been illegal since the 31st. April 1955. State Research have not found any legal measures to legitimise the Army or the Air Force since that date.

Apparently in the bill of rights 1866 it was set out that an Army Act be passed each year to legitimise the Army and to safeguard parliament against overthrow/liquidation by the monarch.

So back in good old '55 parliament obviously thought the Monarch wasn't a threat and no longer continued to pass the Army Act. But at the same time no longer legitimised its existence.

Unfortunately it will take quite a while before the implications are known, since some acts are passed which refer to/ or finance the military.

But certain areas are still unclear, in the North for example it would seem that the Secretary of State for Defence can be prosecuted for any damage or injury carried out by the military in the past 26 years.

Conscientious objectors would be able to take legal action against rules designed to keep them in a force which oughtn't legally to exist.

If State Research claims turn out to be true, retrospective legislation will be the order of the day — an embarrassing day at least.

THE COST OF CONTROL

There are many reasons why the British government maintains its hold militarily in the north, but there can be no doubt that it is in spite of the economics of the area. In fact the financial costs show to what expense it will go in order to keep that hold.

NUCLEAR DEFENCE

The north is an invaluable communications base for the planned nuclear 'theatre war' in Europe, between the USA and USSR. The cable and radar systems, which accompany the north's strategic position (eg. to the Atlantic) have been dealt with in previous issues of OC.

AUTHORITY

The prestige of a government and army, with a glorious (read 'bloody') imperialist past are at stake. If the army were to pull out, the appearance that they had lost, would encourage those communities in Britain who are currently challenging that same authority. Asian and West Indian communities, who came to Britain because of imperialism, are to the forefront in this challenge.

Black people in Bristol rioted last year and created a short-lived 'no go' area in St. Pauls, after years of racism and harassment from the police.

More recently, after much prediction, Brixton too exploded in anger. The scale and violence may have surprised those who 'forget' Britain's imperialism, but it reflected the rejection of it by those who are its victims. Black people were joined in the street fighting by the gay community who also face harassment from the police and state. A certain respect was won from the usually hostile 'butch' young black men.

SOUTHERN STABILITY

In many ways the south of Ireland is of much more value to Britain than the north. There are considerable British (as well as American, German, Japanese, etc) investments and important mutual trading. Politically the south has no small influence within the EEC, and of course there is the possibility of a future defence pact suitable to NATO.



At the present moment, any removal of troops, and responsibility for security passing to Dublin, would endanger southern stability. The anti-imperialist struggle would extend to the south, with the investments and alliances within the EEC not the only areas at risk.

The cosy relationship between the two electoral parties and the deadening control over education and morality by the Catholic Church, would be shaken.

A united Irish state, which Britain eventually wants, could only be encouraged at the same time as physically and ideologically smashing those elements advocating radical change outside of parliament. Other wise they would create havoc in any capitalist 32 county state.

COSTS

To what financial costs will the British government go, in order not to 'lose face and authority'. To place the north in context, it has the highest regional figures for bad housing, unemployment, dependence on welfare, electricity and gas rates, most food items and alcohol for the whole of the 'U.K.'

But the government obviously cherishes our freedom more. According to research published in the New Statesman last month (May) security costs £6 per head per week, compared to less than £1 for the rest of the Disunited Queendom. The total figure this year will be £450 million. This is broken down to £326 m. for 'Law, Order and Protective Services' (mainly the RUC) and £130 m. for the extra cost of keeping the troops here (over and above the cost of keeping them in say W. Germany)

There is also the gap between what is raised locally in taxes, rates, etc. and what Westminster spends on roads, health, etc. This 'Grant in Aid' should be £326 million this year.

In addition there are 'parity payments' - the difference between what is raised in companies and workers insurance contributions, and what the unemployed and pensioners receive in benefits. This year costs are expected to approach £200 m.

So the overall cost of subsidies amounts to £1.5 billion a year - equivalent to £20 per person per week. Not included are the enormous industrial subsidies to the likes of Harland and Wolf shipyards, nor De Lorean's car plant.

The article in the NS was entitled 'The most subsidised people on earth'. Aren't we lucky? Though surely it should have been 'The most number of ...', with the above title going to the ever increasing Royal Family.

200 copies of 'outta control' (aiming ground) mysteriously went astray between Belfast and London. The carefully cut-out address was delivered with a note saying 'your parcel came apart in the post... indeed! Special branch please note that there is no conviction for their sales of the paper.'

Hughes, McCreesh and O'Hara, those who did it wrote on the broken glass, "UDA all the way, fuck the pope and the IRA"!!! Hope to hear from you, Dothe, Arthus, Denmark.

7m Pound Security Hut

"No more money!..." "Last handout," ran the headlines at the beginning of the year, referring to the De Lorean sportscar plant in Belfast.

But on May 22nd, a further government loan of 7 million pounds was promised by the industry and commerce minister, Butler. This raises the total amount of public finance for the project to over £80 million.

The official justification was "a cash flow problem arising from the recent burning of part of the company's office accommodation by a fire, started by a petrol bomb."

Local people, however, maintain that only a security hut was burned and the main office complex not touched. It appears that De Lorean's huts are as exclusive as his sportscars.

The company hope to doubly benefit, as a claim for compensation is being pursued separately under the Criminal Damage legislation.

POSTSCRIPT.

As for the Security Guard, he stood his ground and fired nails from a nail gun at the "offending" youths. When the Brits arrived, they failed to penetrate the surrounding wire mesh, so they fired ineffectively over it!

ROMAC RIPP-OFF

The women in Romac, who make fashion and protective clothing, though, have not been so lucky. On Tuesday, 16th May, at five to four, one of the directors announced that the company could not guarantee them any more pay, after that week's payday (Thursday). Thus the company hoped to steal 2 weeks wages which it owed the women - one for the week in lieu (each weeks pay is in fact for the previous week's work), and one for the holiday pay which everyone was entitled under law.

Mc Cables, Dima Dresses, and Romac are three clothing firms, all with addresses in Queen St., central Belfast. The government receiver, Mr. Stuart, has been called in to the first two firms, and has guaranteed the workforce (predominantly women) two weeks wages when they are made redundant.

On Wednesday at 8.30 am. the 50 women workers and 4 young men (from the cutting room) decided to occupy the premises until they got a guarantee of their 2 weeks wages.

Margaret Donnelly, who is one of the longer 'serving' workers, explained that some of the women have been with the firm for 24 years, and were disgusted at their treatment.

The government, she said, also share responsibility. A receiver was not sent in, but they expect a liquidator to descend once the women have been kicked out; and he will have no authority to guarantee their wages!



The womens union, The Garment Workers' Union, have so far failed to make their protest action official, though, when pressed, could offer no reason for backing out, other than claiming to be 'having talks with the management'.

The shop stewards, though, including ones from Mc Cables' other firms, have given strong support and were present for the all night sit-in.

Other sources of support were from the women of Dima Dresses who collected £17 for the first nights food; and the women from O' Hara's bread shop in Queen St. who made a collection and sent over some food for their tea.

Dear Friends,
Belfast, June '81 - Rumours abound about 2 tests currently sent to the people for the drug squad. I don't know if it's true or not, but I'm sure about whose side they're on.

TORNESS REVISITED

Since 1979, when about 4,000 people gathered at the construction site of the proposed nuclear reactor at Torness, 30 miles east of Edinburgh, attitudes towards differing forms of protest have remained much the same — hardening and polarising in some cases — although since then the numbers have decreased dramatically.

During the second week of May, around about a hundred people gathered at a campsite one mile from the construction site. Events during the week of action included a Womens' march and rally, which was quite well attended, in Edinburgh, a local residents' rally which attracted about a thousand people. Some people managed to make a landing from the sea onto the construction site, occupied several cranes, draped anti-nuclear banners from the tops, and leaving after negotiations with the site security personell(e).

About 30 cyclists and 200 non-cyclists met at the construction site gates, sat down, got up and moved onto the road and off again all under the paternal guiding hands of the local constabulary. Eventually they left and some moved on to occupy a row of cottages (at that time owned by the SSEB, who were in the process of selling them to a local farmer who had plans to demolish them and move on to greater things) directly beside the reactor-site perimeter fence. Both the demonstrators and the police realised the potential of a sustained occupation, and after regular visits to the cottages (checking on numbers and plans), the police moved in en force (about 50) to evict the dozen or so people who had intended to stay indefinitely. At 4:30 the following morning the cottages were but a pile of rubble.

Many things warrant further consideration, and high on the list of priorities are the changing police tactics, and our counter tactics.

The same cop has been orchestrating police manoeuvres at Torness since 1979, obviously enjoying the opportunity to play with the protesters. I don't know what happened in '78, but the events of May '79 were rather an embarrassment for the forces of law n' order, with 3,000 people breaching the outer fence, and a further 400 smashing-and-a-wrecking within the inner compound (after pulling down a hundred feet of fence before the cops' very eyes and noses).

The 1980 police tactics changed: fewer people turned up, and the police were there in force, force being the key word. Determined to make amends for the previous years security fiasco, law and order laid into the demonstrators at the slightest excuse, arresting 28 people.

This year, the police excelled themselves. They displayed what seemed to be a reasonable presence, having pre-set themselves limits of what was acceptable and what was not.

The rate at which they have learnt to *contain* demonstrations allowing people to sit down, stand up, decorate themselves, shout, sing, dance and fizzle out amazes me. Sadly, most people seemed to believe that the police actually are reasonable people, not realising that the cops were happy to let us burn ourselves out, at the same time being ready to immediately move in to suppress any directly effectual action. The "police are people too!" train of thought prompted some to make tea (yes, seriously!) for the police in an open-mouthed attempt to confuse them as to where their loyalties lay — christ.

What *might* have developed into a piece of direct action was stifled almost immediately by bad planning and the cops who pounced on a group of people leaving a van in the hills surrounding the reactor site. All roads in the area were under direct observation, to the extent of the police parking a caravan at a key observation point in the hills. The heart breaking facts are that apart from the 'low-intensity operation' being badly propagated, some of those taking part seemed to look on it as a game of 'cops and robbers'....(real live cops/toy town robbers). One person who made good an escape told me how she was amazed to hear, whilst hiding under the nose of the constabulary in the shadow of a bush, laughter, jokes and fun & games coming from the ranks of those lifted. Apparently conversation bordered on dangerous. I, in all my naivety, believed that it was a serious attempt to make an attack at the roots of some very violent technology. Obviously the prevailing 'holiday' atmosphere indicates that some thought otherwise.

To my mind, direct action is **not** a subject for amusement— It is a form of protest that desperately (especially in view of the increased tightening up of state security) The state has made it's plans and we must make ours.....Incidentally, who noticed the Brits driving past the campsite gates, thought about where they were going and what they were going to do? Next year they could be doing security at Torness....or did you notice the RAF flying low over Barns Ness as if straddling the ground with bullets — I hope so.

Tactics must differ in accordance to the situation. I always feel trapped (and previously have been) on a small, vulnerable picket. Outside the construction site gates a woman grabbed my arm (doesn't happen often!) and demanded that I sit down. I made my objection that to sit would be to place ourselves in a vulnerable, immobile position, aside from being an entirely unnecessary act at the time — they sat. That incident is indicative of the preconceived approaches to stereotyped protesting that seems so prevalent in Britain.

The conclusions which I have drawn from Torness '81 are the same as those forwarded (but as yet not followed up) by many people after each yearly protest — We must choose our **own** ground, our **own** unannounced times, and our **own** tactics — not by playing in the court of the state with predictable methods of protest.

VANDELEUR'S FOLLY

Just out from Co-op Books is the 56 page booklet on the famous Ralahine cooperative.

The first part of the book deals with the situation in the 18th. century in Ireland. Small tenant farmers were at the complete mercy of the landlords, they had to starve to pay the rent. Every landlord employed managers and overseers who treated the farmhands in a most disrespectful manner. The book gives interesting accounts of how the tenants were treated and how some of them organised themselves into secret societies to teach their "masters" a lesson. But there was also the mass action of the people like marches etc. which seemed to cost them a lot in lives and pain. Daniel O'Connell, that well known of Irish bourgeois opportunists, is given an interesting mention in how he used the Irish peasantry and forgot their needs when he got what he wanted. This caused great revulsion amongst the peasantry

who turned to their own methods and obtained more radical results. The country was on the verge of social upheaval and this spelt danger for the landlords and their kind.

A Co. Clare landlord by the name of John Scott Vandeleur was very distressed at the situation especially when his manager Daniel Hastings was shot through the head and killed. The book describes how he decided to put an end to the agrarian violence. He realised that stringent penalties etc. for offenders were useless. So in the end he worked out a scheme whereby he could buy the workers off. Influenced by a lecture tour on co-operatives in Ireland, he decided to establish a co-operative at his estate at Ralahine in Co. Clare. It seems that he did this purely out of self interest. The workers didn't actually take over the estate but merely ran it for him. Actually, this was the interesting thing about the co-op, it showed that the peasants could run their own affairs and have more say in things that concerned the estate. But of course the book points out that Vandeleur still had control of the estate, and everything in it belonged to him. In the event

of his departure or death, the co-operative would collapse and the tenants would have to go back to the tenant and landlord system. In actual fact this is what happened — Vandeleur lost all his money gambling (which was strictly forbidden by the rules of the co-operative) and fled from his debtors. The people had been conned by the reforms that they had accepted from the landlord, not having created their own change.

The book rightly draws a parallel between the landlord giving the peasantry 'revolution' on a plate, and the Southern Govt. of today trying to encourage co-operative type schemes that would be run in their interests. An example is the Workers Participation Act (State Enterprises) of 1977, which gives the impression of increasing workers control. Ralahine — Land War and the Co-operative is available from 'Just Books', 7 Winetavern St, Belfast. Price of the book is £2:00. N.B. James Connolly's 'Labour in Irish history contains an interesting chapter on Ralahine entitled, 'An Irish utopia'.

THE HUNGER STRIKE CAMPAIGN IN DUBLIN

After the death of Bobby Sands, there was a feeling in Dublin that all hell would break loose. It didn't and even with the deaths of three more hunger strikers, all was still calm. The strategy, which up to then had failed, was continued. Liberals and reactionary elements were still pandered to and the campaign was to be kept respectable. Any criticism of this strategy was unwelcomed and suppressed to a certain extent.

THE DEATHS

After Bobby Sands died, vigils took place, and despite the anger, there were silent marches. Rosaries were said. There was a small riot on the night of his death and a few windows were broken and cars set on fire. It was loudly condemned by the National H-Block Committee. The industrial action was relatively successful on the day of the funeral and a large crowd attended the vigil outside the GPO. Speeches told us to stay calm, have respect, and remain dignified.

Francis Hughes died. There was a large riot because people could no longer sit back and watch. Outside the British Embassy the Gardai were stoned — some rocks may have hit the embassy. They reacted viciously. People were batoned indiscriminately.

The next night three petrol bombs were thrown in O'Connell St, and a large crowd of a couple of thousand were batoned again. Dublin City was full of Cops. They were going to scare people off the streets no matter what the cost. During the week of the riot it was announced that two thousand more cops were being recruited — how convenient for the state. In all of this the NH-BC never said anything. The cops were even praised, while those who fought on the streets were condemned, and it was claimed they were just using the H-B situation for their own ends. There were cops in the H-B office every day and they knew more about activities than the people who were fighting for the prisoners.

Joe Stagg, who had worked for years for the prisoners was asked to resign from the committee because he allegedly incited people to riot.

After these disturbances, the H-B Committee banned all night-time demonstrations, despite the unwillingness of people to attend silent vigils and stand and be bored. At the previous riots even some of the stewards took part in the show of anger.

After Raymond McCreesh and Patsy O'Hara died there was little action. The vigils and meetings were small and the days of industrial action were failures. People had disappeared off the streets.

A REACTION

With the situation getting worse, a group of people, who were frustrated and concerned about the other prisoners formed themselves into the South City H Block Group for Action. This group was not centred around any one 'extreme left wing group', but was made up of people from various political and action groups who had been fighting consistently for the prisoners. The group aimed mainly at getting street activity going again. It also wanted to draw attention to the brutality of the cops which up to then had been ignored by the NH-BC. This group wanted to work within the NH-BC, and was not interested in forming an alternative to it. It worked on the basic principles of autonomous action groups and the national policy of the campaign to destabilize the south.

MARCH BANNED

It had organised an evening march and had distributed leaflets at the pre-election national rally in Dublin, advertising it. After this rally it was approached by the NH-BC and the 'republican movement', and told to call off its march and disband ... or else! The NH-BC had passed a motion condemning the march and circulated it to the action groups thus ensuring the failure of the march. The election was used conveniently as an excuse to have no street activity so as not to alienate the middle class voters. Although the candidates have been successful what will happen next?

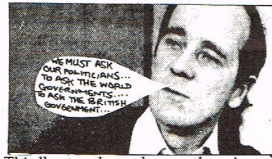
CONTRADICTIONS

Why did the NH-BC react in this way? Well firstly they are still pandering to the liberal elements in the South, and still trying to build a 'broad based' campaign. To do this the campaign must be respectable. Property must not be attacked and force must not be used. When will they realise that these people will never support us. Those who do support the campaign now do so only because they are anti-imperialist. Its contradictory to say that you can support the prisoners without supporting the anti-imperialist struggle. These people have not supported us in over ten years of struggle and naive to expect them to do so now.



But there are also contradictions within the 'republican movement' itself — which in effect now controls the NH-BC. Anti-imperialism implies anti-capitalism, but this is not evident from their record in the south. They do not want property attacked nor do they want southern cops attacked. (Actions that were planned for the night after Frankie Hughes' death were vetoed by the republican leadership). Basically they

want the south as stable as possible so that they can use it as a safe military base. Even though the southern state is collaborating openly with the 'British War Machine', the republican movement don't see it as a target in its anti-imperialist struggle. Related to this is the fact that Sinn Féin are a political party who effectively want to control the struggle. Anything that they not directly control is a threat to them.



Thirdly, to a large degree, there is an attempt to separate the H-Block struggle from other struggles that are going on. The kids from Dublin inner-city were loudly condemned when they rioted, for allegedly using the issue. But the NH-BC (in all its respectability) could not relate the shit housing, bad schools and lack of jobs to the criminalisation of the prisoners in the H-Blocks. The source of both problems is capitalism/imperialism and the state (usually the cops) to these kids are the enemy and should be attacked at every opportunity. Everyone decides what their methods will be according to their situation and resources. These kids only know one way of fighting and they should not be condemned for using it in support of the prisoners.

THE WAY FORWARD

If we are to stop more hunger strikers from dying we must realise that we must use direct tactics. Politicians suit themselves and will only do things if we really get the shits up them. Its up to us all individually to adopt this attitude. The structures ate there and and be used.

think it must be said that now there is more room for action in the south. This is not to put down the people in the north and what they have done. Riots and civil disturbance can be continued up there, but they have almost become institutionalised, with the security forces having a lot of practice in containing them. In the south civil disturbance would be of greater effect. The cops have had less experience of it.

But our main strength lies though in industrial action. This backed up by civil disobedience could bring the southern government to its knees. People have come out and could come out again. But organisation and coordination is needed. Every workplace needs to be canvassed — a one day stoppage for the next hunger striker who dies, two days for the one after and so on till people are out, till the hunger strikers win. Workers and unemployed in the north could form flying pickets and come down to the workplaces in the south. These ideas have been voiced before, but its time the action groups, and the trade union sub committees began the work

McCartan Murder contd. from front page said, disregarding contradictory evidence from Michaels friends. In fact when the boys were giving evidence he showed an utter contempt for them, shouting irritably at them to speak up. Yet when McKeown was giving evidence under cross-examination, Jones was ever ready to agree with him and even supply answers. He seemed to have his mind made up already; insisting that neither of the policemen had seen Michael painting when this had not been proved and, when examining McKeown's black Walther pistol, he announce that it was shiny i.e. similar to a whitened paint-brush! When McKeown was unable to explain how he would describe the shot, Jones again helped out. 'It was a snap shot', he offered, and McKeown repeated it.

After the trial, people of the Lower Ormeau, angered by the verdict gathered at the waste ground where Michael was shot and painted the following statement on the hoarding 'Michael McCartan was murdered by RUC constable McKeown. He was shot in the back while painting slogans. The murderer was freed by Justice Jones'. Slogans such as 'McKeown is guilty', 'RUC out' and 'Jones is an ex-Brit' were painted on the walls. People walking home were harassed and threatened by Brits. During the night the hoarding was defaced and almost torn off the wall with 'UVF' daubed over walls.

No member of the security forces has ever been convicted of murder in the last twelve years. Michael McCartan's name joins those of Majella O'Hare and John Boyle whose

killers were also acquitted and returned to duty after a sham trial.

The killers of Carole Ann Kelly and Julie Livingstone, by plastic bullet, will never be identified. Robert McKeown is back on duty. He is armed and dangerous.

SPANISH HUNGER-STRIKER DIES

Juan Galende died from pneumonia on the 80th day of his hunger strike in the infamous Madrid prison, Carabanchel. He had been in a coma for ten days.

The hunger strike, over prison conditions, is continued in several jails by members of GRAPO (1st of Oct. Anti-Fascist Revolutionary Group).

OUTTA CONTROL ANARCHA-FEMINIST NEWS

OUTTA CONTROL.....
OF THE PATRIARCHY
HOLE DELEGATE JUST
BEEN RECALLED



WOULDN'T SAY NO
TO A BATH AND A
SHAVE

TIME FOR A
CHANGE OF
NAME!

MUST BUY SOME
BOOKS ON
FEMINISM!



STRIKES, PICKETS & OCCUPATIONS



As the economic recession deepens all Maggie Thatcher can tell us to do is tighten our belts—as if there is any room left to tighten! The unemployment figures in Northern Ireland have been soaring bringing increased poverty and depression, on top of which significant cuts in public spending, in housing, social services and health care have brought many people to their knees. Of all the groups affected none have been hit more so than women—they have had to carry the burden of unemployment and public spending cuts.

Firstly women are most likely to be unemployed—they work in the most vulnerable sectors of industry, the service sectors, catering, nursing etc, and many women workers do so on a part time basis—and part time workers are always easier to get rid of. In the home they are coping with lower wages, rising costs, poor housing and when governments talk about cuts in welfare they mean that women will now have to look after the sick and the disabled who can't have hospital beds, the elderly who can't have homehelps, and the children who can't have nurseries, as well as their husbands, sons and daughters who can't find work.

It is no wonder that the use of tranquillisers has been rising at an alarming rate in Northern Ireland for many

women its the only way that they can cope with the realities around them. Over the past week three groups of women workers have taken action (sometimes along with men) and have refused to accept the decisions of others.

STITCHERS

Women who work in the clothing and allied trades in Northern Ireland have been feeling the pinch of unemployment for some time now, and for many the result has been poverty for their families as often their wage is what keeps them just above the poverty line. In times of recession, women have always been hit first and hardest of all workers.

Women stitchers are sitting in at the moment in Romac and in Crawford and Harte to demand assurances about their holiday pay and wages. This situation has arisen because of the closedown of two other firms owned by the same company—Dima and S.O. McCabes. These two employ 50 people between them making garments and they have informed workers after a receiver had been called in that the firms will close down next week.

Incensed by the short notice and by the precarious nature of their jobs, women in Romac and Crawford and Harte decided to sit in until they had assurances that they

were getting their weeks wages and holiday pay.

The owners of the firms maintain that both are viable but the workers union, the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers is not so sure given the number of stitching firms which have closed in the last few months. As yet the sit in has not been given official recognition.

PURDYSBURN NURSES

While the government is busy cutting jobs, complaining of wastage, many workers are finding that they are working twice as hard making up for understaffing. This very issue has prompted the threatened strike by nurses in Purdysburn Hospital, where severe understaffing is causing problems for both staff and patients. The COHSE spokesperson in the hospital - the union that represents most of the staff there - said that the patients are receiving no psychiatric care at the moment as all the nursing staff can manage to do is to keep the patients quiet, (that usually means administering large doses of drugs). For example on one three hour shift, one nurse was expected to take care of 39 patients on a ward, some of whom were diabetic, epileptic, and some needed special care! Another nurse received hospital treatment after being attacked in the special unit for violent patients - when staffing was not up to the required minimum. As well as this skin complaints have developed in patients from lack of baths again due to poor staffing.

Understaffing has always been a problem but because of recent government cuts overtime in the hospital was axed 7 months ago which only served to make the whole situation worse. This treatment has been the same in many psychiatric hospitals and indicates the priorities which the government has - the mentally ill come very far down the list because often they cannot speak out for themselves. Similarly the government has always come down hard on nurses knowing that they tend to put their patients first and so are less likely to take strike action. A mass meeting and walkout is planned for the weekend but they will continue to provide emergency cover on the wards during any action they may take.

In the same hospital a woman died at the end of May from drug abuse - when two drugs were prescribed simultaneously which reacted together fatally. It was described as 'unfortunate' that the doctor who prescribed the drugs was

Continued on back page

SUPPORT FOR ABORTION

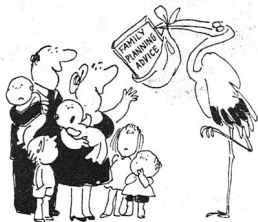
On June 6th the Abortion Law Reform Association organised a meeting in London on abortion in Ireland. They invited speakers from the Dublin-based Woman's Right to Choose group and the Northern Ireland Abortion Campaign. ALRA believed that by organising such an event they would be able to express their solidarity with Irish women, and open up a public debate in England surrounding the issue. About 100 people attended the meeting most of whom were concerned with the abortion issue either through ALRA, the National Abortion Campaign, or the various counselling agencies. Some Irish women living in England also came along. Despite though their declared interest in Irish affairs, and the plight of the Irish people, the organised left and most of the feminist groups were conspicuous by their absence - Irish women's rights over their own fertility is perhaps too trivial a subject for them to raise.

The meeting opened with a short introduction from a member of Alra explaining the purpose of the meeting, and then I spoke on behalf of NIAC. I began by outlining the social/economic setup in Northern Ireland and giving a short history of the state. I went on to talk about the dominance of the churches here and how they can affect everyday life. After describing the law as it stands in N.I., the failure of the Stormont government and then successive British governments since direct rule to extend the 67 Abortion Act here, I catalogued the hardships of women faced with unwanted pregnancy - travelling to England, facing the backstreet, or some abandoning babies shortly after birth - all have been the realities of women here.

I talked about the setting up of NIAC and the opposition that it faced and the possibilities for the future. In summing up I indicated the ways in which British feminists might help their Irish sisters in their struggle—by lobbying MPs, educating people about the situation here and by support in all forms.

The speaker from the Woman's Right to Choose group pointed out the situation in the South and reminded those present that women in Ireland didn't even have access to contraception. She outlined the setting up of her group and of the counselling service they provide to help women go to England for abortion. She could not see any change in the foreseeable future as abortion was a difficult subject to raise because of the alliance of Church and State in the South, but she added that safe, legal and easily available facilities in the North would significantly ease the burden of all Irish women as coming up to Belfast would be considerably easier than going to England.

After the speeches the meeting was opened to allow questions and discussion. This part of the meeting was very lively and stimulating. Many of the audience expressed amazement at the



plight of Irish women and of their own lack of knowledge—many were determined to publicise the situation at as best they could. Questioners wanted to know if any of the political parties in Ireland supported abortion and the support generally for women's rights.

Some of the speakers came from outside Britain— and spoke about the situation of women in Canada, USA, Spain and Italy, and these comparisons were very useful especially for the Irish women as they indicated possible future strategies in Ireland.

At the end of the meeting a collection was taken up which yielded £60—this was divided between the two speakers to take back to their groups. All in all it was a fruitful experience allowing bonds of support and solidarity to be firmly established and incidentally it was the first time that NIAC and a Woman's Right to Choose group had actually met!

MAEVE

Last weekend saw the preliminary showings of the film 'Maevae' at Queen's Film Theatre, before the film goes on to be shown at the Edinburgh and Cork festivals. Most of the film is set in Belfast, in a working class Catholic ghetto with occasional sorties to Ennis and a glimpse of the highlife in London.

Basically it is the story of two sisters the elder, Maevae, who left Belfast at the beginning of the present trouble ...she was confused and felt suffocated by what she saw around her... and Roisin, who stayed and still lives with the parents. Maevae comes back on a visit to her family and much of the film is made up of childhood memories of school, of her father, of sectarianism, of the early troubles, interspersed between present day

reality of life in Belfast. Although slowmoving at times, the portrayal of life in Belfast is the film's best feature. The cameraman has set up the shots well and I was left with a hauntingly real and uncanny view of places, incidents, family relationships and sectarianism as it happens every day, and not the sensationalist headline material so typical of most documentaries, films, newspapers, and journals - it is worth seeing the film for that.

On the other hand, the film was presented as a feminist film, and the last of the showings was for women only. I was surprised at this for at no time during the making of the film was there any inkling in Belfast that this was the case, and certainly no contact was made with any women's groups here. I think that this is evident in the film as it fails abysmally at portraying feminism, or its role in the present situation. It is a film written by a woman, about two women, and as such is very sympathetic, but as soon as feminist issues are raised the film tends to become tedious, detached, and coarsely done. When Maevae argues with her ex-boyfriend the discussion is a crude and simplistic feminism versus the national question one, which does a dis-service to both points of view. Maevae went away to England and has come back a feminist in theory at least, when we see her life in England she has not been involved in anything with other women, presumably her feminism came from books (which listening to her dialogue confirms). She wants the space to be on her own and believes that England can give that to her, - basically though she just doesn't know what she wants ... and so she hardly presents a positive view of feminism in Britain, Ireland or anywhere else.

One is left with the feeling that women in Ireland are not challenging these things already and that our struggles can be written out of the script.

It is hoped to bring the completed film back to QFT for a public showing after the autumn. The film does generate ideas, and if you have the chance to see it do so. With luck and some money I hope that Irish feminists will want to make their own films and videos... though lets hope that with grants of nearly £100,000, the amount it took to make Maevae, the pieces will reflect a feminist view of Irish women and their lives.



HIDING BEHIND PETTICOATS AND PINAFORES

GAINING GROUND
HERSTORY

The forgotten history of the Ladies' Land League

In great contrast to the centennial celebrations which commemorated the formation of the Land League in 1879, its sister organisation — the Ladies' Land League — which was formed 100 years ago, on January 31st 1881, has received no mention at all. The justification in our historical annals is nonetheless overwhelming. Not only was the Ladies' Land League the first political organisation of Irish women but it can also be argued that without the support of the women, the Land League, far from triumphing, would have suffered a humiliating defeat. If the women had not taken over after the imprisonment of the male leaders, the British Government would have had no reason to concede to any of the League's demands: it was, by that stage, defunct as an organisation with its leading members in prison and growing demoralisation of its supporters becoming a serious possibility. All this was to change, as a result of the tireless work of a group of women, whose contribution deserves more than official oblivion.



The Land League had been formed in 1879 as a pressure group with the joint aims of reducing the exorbitant rents farmers were forced to pay, and to eventually win over ownership of the land for the farmers. It was a time when famine threatened yet again to engulf the country, but on this occasion the Irish leaders were determined to fight back and win some measure of land reform. Support was immediate and enthusiastic as the campaign gained strength. Farmers were instructed to pay rent only at 'the point of a bayonet' and those who were evicted for non payment were promised financial support by the League. Through the boycotting of landgrabbers it was hoped that no one would touch the farm of an evicted person, so forcing the landlord to eventually take back the original tenant. Thousands joined the League in a desperate effort to fight landlord power; the mood was militant and tactics rough: there was maiming of cattle, destruction of crops, shooting of landlords. By August 1881 Prime Minister Gladstone had been forced to introduce a Land Act in the hope that this would defuse the campaign. But the Act, by ignoring the landless, excluding those in rent arrears and failing to provide for any land redistribution, was too little and far too late. But the Government was not going to concede any more: to ensure that the agitation collapsed, its leaders began to be arrested. By October 13th, even Parnell had been lodged in Kilmainham Jail and on October 20th, the Land League was officially declared to be an illegal organisation.

"Anna Parnell would have worked the Land League revolution to a much better conclusion than her great big brother"

It had been obvious for some months that the Government would eventually resort to such a measure. The crucial question was whether the leadership would tamely submit and by so doing acquiesce in the suppression of the most powerful mass movement Ireland had ever witnessed, or would they be able to devise some means whereby the struggle could be continued, despite the anticipated coercive laws. The solution was obvious, if unpalatable—to enlist the help of women. Most of the men were highly dubious of this 'most dangerous experiment', fearing public ridicule if they were to be seen relying on women. But they had little choice and time was running out, as Michael Davitt forcefully argued. Either they immediately form a Ladies' Land League as an auxiliary organisation, or they accepted defeat. Davitt went further: not only was women's involvement not a last, despairing gesture, he felt their participation could intensify the struggle, that the women could be 'more dangerous to despotism than men'. Andrew Kettle, once he had met Anna Parnell, found himself in full agreement. Considering her to have 'a better knowledge of the lights and shades of Irish peasant life, of the real economic conditions of the country, and of the social and political forces which had to be acted upon to work out the freedom of Ireland than any person, man or woman, I have ever met'. His conclusion was that 'Anna Parnell would have worked the Land League revolution to a much better conclusion than her great big brother'.

A Ladies' Land League had already been formed in New York the previous year by another Parnell sister, Fanny, who was a highly regarded nationalist poet. Delia Parnell, the mother of the Parnell children, was its president and branches were formed in many other states to raise money for relief in Ireland. Anna, Fanny's younger sister, aged 28, now returned to Ireland to take up the work of organising Irish women. The day after the formation of the Ladies' Land League, Davitt was rearrested and on his journey back to Portland Jail he comforted himself by specialising about this mighty 'power' that Forster, Chief Secretary

for Ireland, would now have to reckon with.

For their part, the women were determined to ensure that they would be politically effective. It was an unprecedented opportunity for women to stake a claim to be considered as political equals and they wanted to succeed. Anna was quickly urging women to learn to depend only on themselves, to do things for themselves and to organise themselves. No more were they going to rely on male support. In her memoirs *'The Land League: Tale of a Great Sham'* Anna makes it plain that she believed the Land League could become the vehicle by which landlord power would be destroyed and out of that victory she looked forward to the arising of a mass movement of men and women which would have the power to win national independence. She did not believe in piece meal reform and for the next eighteen months, as the guiding spirit of the Ladies Land League, she attempted to mould the campaign into a 'programme of a permanent resistance until the aim of the League shall be attained'.

An organisation overhaul of the Land Leagues records was their first task, once they discovered the chaotic disorder of the headquarters. It was impossible to tell how the campaign was being conducted around the countryside as branch records were either out of date or non existent, so the women devised their 'Book of Kells'—which was a record of every estate, including information on rents, the character of the landlord and the spirit of the people. Davitt later praised it as the most perfect system that could be imagined. An executive of 21 women was selected, with a reserve of women ready to take the place of anyone who might be arrested.

Women organisers toured the country, organising relief, attending eviction scenes where they urged the people to stand firm against the landlords and arranging for the building of huts as shelter for those who did suffer eviction. Branches multiplied as women responded to the call: by the end of 1881 there were over 500 branches of the Ladies' Land League. Not surprisingly the women activists were condemned by the Catholic Church and sneered at by the press. Archbishop McCabe thundered against those who



LAND LEAGUE CRUELTY.

Unionist propaganda poster denouncing the Land League and its use of 'the Boycott'.

upon. Parnell promised to use his influence to end the agitation and in return the Government undertook to amend the Land Act and release the prisoners. Forster and Cowper resigned in protest at these concessions.

an "open organisation in which the ladies will not take part"

Parnell and Davitt met on May 4th. Davitt was jubilant at the victory that had been extracted from the Government and praised the work of the women. Parnell retorted that as far as he was concerned they had done much harm and had to be disbanded. If they were not, he threatened to leave public life. But months of negotiation followed before the final dissolution of the Ladies' Land League; months in which the women were the pawns in a political intrigue between Parnell and some of the more radical members of the Land League who wanted the land campaign to be continued and who therefore voted for the retention of the Ladies' Land League. Only when Parnell finally agreed to the formation of a new organisation — the Irish National League — unblushingly described as an "open organisation in which the ladies will not take part"—did they drop any pretence of wanting to ensure that women would continue to have the right to be involved in political activity. For their part the women saw no reason to remain in existence: once the men were released from jail, it was obvious that they would again take over the leadership. Women lacked the right to vote or to hold office and were therefore unable to challenge the influence of the politicians. For Anna Parnell, this was also a time of personal

tragedy. Her beloved sister Fanny had died suddenly in July, and news of her death, combined with physical exhaustion, precipitated a nervous breakdown from which it took several months for her to recover. All along, she had distrusted the sincerity of the men, believing their militant words to be mere rhetoric. She did not want to be part of a movement which deceived the people, content to stop short of full scale land reform. She was also hostile to parliamentary wheeling and dealing, believing liberal promises of support for a Home Rule Bill to be mere fiction, and Parnell's subsequent move towards parliamentarianism a sell out of national aspirations and a denial of the growing power of the mass movement.

Before she died in 1911, Anna became a supporter of Sinn Féin and she was enthusiastic of Inghinnidhe na hEireann, formed in 1900 by Maud Gonne because she found that no nationalist organisation would admit her as a member. Tim Harrington, the President of the National League, bluntly told Maud that women were not permitted into the organisation because past experience had demonstrated that women 'could not be controlled'.

There are many reasons why Irish men would prefer not to acknowledge the existence of the Ladies' Land League, not least because of the shameful way in which the women were swept aside once they were no longer needed. These women pioneers defied a British State as intransigent and inhuman a State as the one we face today; defied an hypocritical Church, worried about the 'modesty' of women who fought alongside a desperate people but which turned a blind eye to the prostitution, the conduct of the British soldiers in the streets each night and the thousands upon thousands of Irish women who had been evicted from their homes; and they defied popular pressure in stepping outside of their traditional roles as women, in order to defend the rights of the poor and the dispossessed.

SOUTHERN ELECTIONS What did they do for women?

The Women's Political Association which promises to promote any woman who runs for an elected public position irrespective of her politics is well pleased with the results of the '81 election in the South. There are more women TDs now than at any time previously. (eleven). But what do they represent or who do they represent? Only one of the women TDs elected said that she saw it as an important part of her role to raise and push issues of importance to women such as family planning, law reform, child care etc. Liz Noonan, the lesbian feminist who ran in Dublin, was refused promotion by the Women's Political Association, showing up what their commitment to women really means. She ran on a radical programme covering the needs of women at work, the rights of lesbian mothers to keep their children, an end to discrimination on the grounds of lesbianism and she also canvassed in support of the H Block prisoners demands. The campaign was useful from a propaganda point of view, raising issues never before raised in such a public manner. However, it would be encouraging illusions in the election system to see it as anything more than that. The financial obstacles to competing with the big money parties were very obvious and show up the fallacy of the notion that everyone is equal in the 'democratic' process. She got 357 votes, more than many of her supporters expected, but the main value of the campaign was getting new ideas across to people on the canvass, speaking to people at their doors about

the issue of lesbianism for example and personalising the issue by bringing them face to face with a woman not afraid to declare herself a lesbian.

The Fine Gael party laid its respects to the women's movement in the most traditional and insidious way by effectively offering a (low) wages for housework programme. They promised women £3.00 a week per child and tax concessions to those who stayed at home. Although Fianna Fail spent thousands of pounds advertising in the papers showing that tax concessions would be at the expense of the wage earner, most of the political commentators agreed that this Fine Gael tax promise was the single most important factor in pushing up their vote so dramatically. The net result of a wages for housework policy is to institutionalise the individual woman in the home and to confirm her role as one of domestic servant and full time child minder. The anarchist alternative is to socialise housework and child care, involving all members of the community and allowing women to fulfill all the roles open to them rather than being seen only as wives and mothers. This involves spending money on community based nurseries and creches, communal canteens etc, rather than offering women a sop to retain the status quo. So in answer to the question—what will the new TDs do for women?—the answer is nothing. Women will have to get together and do things for themselves.



ARMAGH

Terrified of a repeat of last week's sudden release of prisoners from the 'Crum, the RUC packed the court in Armagh town on Tuesday when Shirley Devlin, an ex prisoner, Breige Ann McCaughy and Eileen McGonigle at present serving sentences in Armagh Gaol, appeared before the court.

They are suing the Secretary of State for assault and brutality which occurred on 7th February, 1980. The women prisoners told the court how over 30 male screws walked in at lunchtime along with Scott the Governor, who proceeded to tell them about a cell search.

Shirley Devlin made the point that there had never been male screws involved in these searches before, she said that the women were moving towards the association room when the male screws grabbed them, dragging them across the floor, punching and beating them.

The Judge, Frank Russell then took the decision to continue the trial until 6.00pm, that evening. He probably thought that he would not be putting the women out too much and it must have cost a lot of tax payers money to keep such security on. The case will probably continue for another few days and we can expect the usual verdict.

Memories of Mountjoy

Over the past years a few minor changes have been made in Mountjoy prison, for instance, the present matron, though strict, is better than the last one, but changes like most of the day to day things inside are trivial and only given importance because there is nothing else happening inside. Thus small things can mean a lot. One of the first things the present matron did was to re-allow matches and lighters. These had been stopped several years back when a MALE prisoner in St.Pats set fire to his cell ie: nothing to do with the women. This means that prisoners who have any of the daily allowance (10 weekdays, 20 weekends left can smoke at night.

The medical services are appalling. The story of the anorexiac is bad enough but what the junkies go through is perhaps worse. Roughly 20% of the women in the past 12 months are on heavy drugs when they come in they are cold turkeyed. If they are lucky they get an aspirin and that is all. There is no provision for treatment of any kind either physical or psychological....we have reason to believe that the new psychologist might change that but it remains to be seen. As for other illness treatment is minimal to say the least. Most women in for sentences over a month experience irregularities in their periods which can take the form of periods lasting up to three weeks or arriving every two weeks. Because the doctors are all men and very unsympathetic, few women will go to them about such things and just suffer, some become anaemic. If it is raining during the exercise period there is no fresh air for the day and perhaps for several days if the rain comes on consecutive days at that time.

The heating in the winter was virtually non existent for the two winters that I spent in there. Thus not only are you freezing all day long but if you are studying at night you have to do this in bed as it is just too cold to sit up. I got chilblains on both hands, both winters and many women had them on their feet which made walking painful.

At least 90% of the women prisoners in Mountjoy are illiterate and there are completely inadequate facilities for them to learn to read and write.

Fire precautions are pitiful. No one can remember there ever being a fire drill. All mattresses are foam and highly flammable and give off toxic fumes. There was a fire cell death in Limerick prison in 1980 (a man) and the coroner's verdict riders on the necessity of proper fire precautions. In Mountjoy Female there is one extinguisher in the corridor and one fire hose. The hose was disconnected two years ago because it dripped all the time and left a mess. Easter 81 there was a fire in a cubicle used for storing shoe polish, STs, cleaning materials etc (highly inflammable materials). The women were taken down to the recreation room for a while and then herded back into smoke and fume filled cells and locked up for the night. The women in cells near the cubicle could

not even see the doors of their cells clearly from their beds (a cell is approx 10 feet long) windows in the cells open roughly 4 1/2 to 5 inches if you are lucky! One of the women locked up at this time is a severe asthmatic. During the fire there was total chaos and hysteria in both prisoners and jailers. All except one jailer. What would have happened if that one had not been on duty and the fire had been bigger? It should be remembered that this fire took place not too long after the Stardust fire tragedy in Dublin where 48 people died. The material in the mattresses in all cells in the Republic (including police cells) is the same as what was at the Stardust. At night all cells are double locked and after 9pm the keys are transferred to the officers mess for 'security'. If there was a fire after 9pm the keys would have to be brought back and in that space of time nothing could be done to rescue women in the cells.

CENSORSHIP OF MAIL

This applies to all prisoners but is used particularly against long term prisoners. Letters with political content will be stopped particularly if the writer does not visit as well so the prisoner comes to believe she has lost friendships. The rule of ex prisoners not being allowed to write or visit is really cruel for many of the women, most of whose friends have been inside.

Limerick prison is used for female political prisoners and non political prisoners. From all accounts it is worse than the 'Joy because there is absolutely no work or school or anything to break the monotony. Prisoners who cause trouble in Limerick are occasionally transferred to the 'Joy and vice versa. Also if the 'Joy gets very overcrowded. At these times prisoners are given no warning they are being transferred and neither are their friends and family so visits and letters are lost. When sent back to the 'Joy again no warning is given so people go all the way to Limerick for visits only to find the prisoner is back in Dublin.

It is most unusual for prisoners to give birth in prison nowadays: non political prisoners are sent to hospital. This was not the case for Rose Dugdale. Much was made in the media about the special birth cell. This was all lies. She had her son in an ordinary cell and the light was so poor screws had to stand around with torches for the doctors to see. In Mountjoy some of the pregnant women are encouraged to go to prenatal classes in the hospital, but not all. The criteria for this privilege is hard to understand, not appearing to be based on any logic. But then that is the same with practically everything in there! In fact this pure lack of logic is one of their strongest weapons because you never know what is going to happen next.

THE NEW WOMEN'S PRISON

Work has begun on a new women's prison at Wheatfields, an area on the



outskirts of Dublin between Ballyfermot and Clondalkin. It has accommodation for sixty women. Until it was announced Mountjoy was always half empty; since then the 'Joy has been packed to full capacity. Obviously this is to convince the public of the need for a bigger prison. It's not that more women are being convicted, but that less are given probation or suspended sentences. In fact all the prison statistics are crazy. For example if you take an annual prison population of say 100 you can be sure that 50% or more are women doing several sentences in one year. The recidivism rate is very high with women spending several months inside and the same ones going in year after year.

SPAIN

Nearly 200 postcards have now been sent off to the Spanish Minister of Justice demanding an amnesty for all those women on trial for having or being involved in performing abortions., and calling for safe abortions to be legalised in Spain.

The response to the postcards was much better than expected, many were taken within two days, and it has been decided to print our own postcards for safe, legal abortion in Northern Ireland as part of a propaganda strategy planned for the autumn.

If you want to protest about the Spanish trial the address is Ministerio de Justicia, San Bernardo 45, Madrid 8, Spain. Some postcards are still available in the bookshop. Others can be obtained by writing to National Abortion Campaign, 30 Camden Road, London NW1.

not at the inquest to answer questions. It was declared that the doctor was unaware that a combination of the two drugs was fatal - despite the fact that in the past few years medical journals had carried reports to that effect.

The woman Clare Campbell was admitted to Purysburn suffering from post-natal depression and died three weeks later. If doctors spent more time talking and listening to their patients instead of using them as guinea pigs or keeping them quiet with drugs Clare Campbell might still be alive.

BALMORAL TESTING CENTRE

As part of the Civil Servants dispute over pay, eight women from the Vehicle Testing Centre at Balmoral Road, came out on June 12th—the first of a series of pickets and token strikes leading up to an all out strike at the end of the month. Workers at the centre voted 21-6 for an all out strike.

Work has been disrupted at the centre no appointments are being made, no post is allowed through, nothing is being collected and PSV forms for lorries and large vehicles are not being processed. The women have been fairly successful in stopping the large goods lorries from entering the centre—they estimate around 75% successful, those who did force their way through belonged to small businesses. The T&GWU have already come out in support of the strike.

Disruption at Balmoral Road is likely to continue and the campaign will continue throughout the North's 15 centres with a proposed telephone ban. The women are demanding a 15% improvement with an underpinning minimum increase of £10 per week. The British Government has refused to negotiate or allowed the unions the right to go to arbitration. On top of that the Government is cutting 75,000 jobs over the next three years—that's around 3,000 in Northern Ireland putting more workers on the dole.

Short changed?

Ever wondered why your doctor, if he/she was in favour of contraceptives pushed the pill at you and nothing else? Ever wondered why so many female sterilisations happen and fewer male when vasectomy is a much simpler and safer procedure?

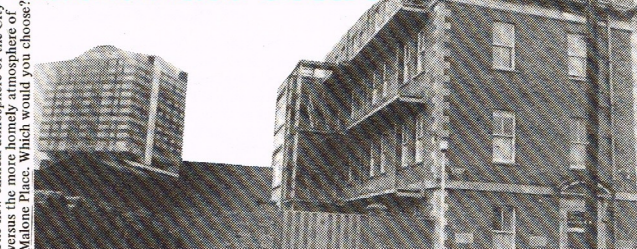
So did we—but we thought it might have been pressure on the doctor of time or lack of knowledge....but we may have been wrong.

It seems that the Health Boards (who pay doctors per patient, per visit, per prescription) don't pay a fee for any contraceptive prescribed EXCEPT the pill. Consequently if a doctor spends time telling you about diaphragms, sheaths or IUDs s/he won't get paid for it—writing a prescription for the pill then becomes a lot easier and a lot more lucrative.

Similarly, a doctor referring a woman for sterilisation receives a fee BUT not if he refers a man. So next time you consult your doctor about contraception ask him/her if the above is true and ask them what they are doing about it.

Malone Place closure

The new clinical atmosphere of the City versus the more homely atmosphere of Malone Place. Which would you choose?



If you plan to have a baby in Belfast, then after 30th June you will almost certainly have to book into one of the large maternity hospitals in the area—the Royal, the Jubilee, the Ulster Hospital or the Mater. Home confinements are extremely rare and when the last small maternity unit closes another area of choice for pregnant women will go.

Malone Place Hospital, which, despite, its name is located not in the wealthier suburbs of the city but at the end of Sandy Row, was a general practitioner maternity unit. The service it offered enabled a woman to be supervised throughout her pregnancy and confinement by her own doctor, with the actual delivery being done by the midwives who staffed the unit. Any woman booked into Malone Place was able to go along and meet the staff who would be delivering her baby, a fact that reassured many women. The size of the unit (32 beds) and the attitudes of the staff ensured that women felt relaxed and confident about the care that they were going to receive. "A home from home" was how one woman described it.

However over the past few years the numbers of women using Malone Place had declined, making it particularly vulnerable to public spending cuts. This decline was partly due to fewer GPs being interested in obstetric work but also because many women were not informed that Malone Place was an option open to them, one woman stated that "my own doctor was very reluctant to refer me to Malone Place and gave various reasons that implied it wasn't the safest place to have a baby, particularly a first baby". He informed her that if anything went wrong she would never "forgive herself". Given that many GPs may have shared that view, its not surprising that numbers using the unit dropped off. Women and doctors who did use Malone Place though had complete confidence in its services and safety and obviously any woman whose pregnancy indicated potential problems was not booked in there.

The views of this GP reflect an attitude that safe healthy deliveries can only take place in highly technological surroundings. Yet the majority of childbirths are normal and whilst no one would deny the necess-

ity and desirability of having technological back up for those women and babies who need it, the increasing use of medical intervention in normal deliveries has caused many women to question some of the practices in the larger maternity units. Procedures like the artificial induction or "acceleration" of labour can, in themselves cause complications at the delivery stage. These processes coupled with the increasing use of foetal monitors often make the whole experience of childbirth more painful and distressing for women. Increased pain means an increase in the demand for pain relieving drugs like pethidine, which can affect the baby.

A growing body of opinion believes that technology should only be used when appropriate and as a back up to assist the skills of the midwives and doctors, not to replace them.

In this context, many of the women who opted for Malone Place did so because they wanted to experience a birth that was allowed to progress naturally, in a situation where they knew the staff around them.

Compared to Britain, women in Northern Ireland already have fewer options than their sisters who can choose between various schemes when it comes to childbirth. The domino scheme for example, allows a woman to be supervised throughout pregnancy by a doctor and midwife and she only has to go to hospital for the actual delivery and can return home within 24 hours. Home confinements are much more common than here, and there are GP units still in operation. These options, though have been fought for by women and by those doctors and midwives who recognise that childbirth is not an illness requiring medical interference and who believe that women themselves should be allowed some degree of choice and control over the process of birth.

The administrators who decided to close Malone Place made finance the basis of their decisions rather than any consideration of its services in other terms. The fact that women weren't consulted for their opinion surprises no one—after all, we are only consumers of the NHS!

ADDRESS Association of Maternity Services, Secretary, Mrs. A. Taylor, West Hill Cottage, Exmouth Place, Hastings, Sussex.

Meetings

The last Unity Meeting took place on June 6th—the theme was nuclear power. The turnout was very small and so it was decided to discuss the subject at a future date (probably the September meeting) and to get the banned BBC film 'The War Game' for that discussion.

A Bookcollective meeting took place on 30th May and it is hoped that a book, with the

theme of 'changes' in Northern Irish women's lives over the past ten years will be out by Christmas. This will be possible because the collective hope to publish it themselves as opposed to going to a commercial publisher. So far the content is wide ranging—if you would like to be involved in any way contact them c/o the Womens Centre. For further details of all womens meetings contact the womens centre...18 Donegal St., Belfast. Tel: 43363

Outta Control

News & Views of the
Belfast Anarchist Collective

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW
MORE ABOUT THE BAC...
WRITE: BAC, C/O
TWINN AVERN ST.,
BELFAST



OUTTA CONTROL... of the state bosses, patriarchy, schooling, churches... As Anarchists we oppose the authority and exploitation of this society, and advocate one of free association and self-management. This paper comes out every four weeks and we welcome contributions, criticisms etc.

DEATH THROUGH PROTESTS

JOE McDONNELL became the fifth hunger-striker to die in the prisoners bid to win their five demands. He died on July 8th, on the 61st day of his strike. There were immediate protests with marches, rallies and some rioting. The response from the Brits showed their willingness to shoot dead anyone who took to the streets.

Within 2 days three people were killed, two teenage boys and a woman.

16 Year old John Dempsey was shot as he threw petrol bombs at the Andersonstown Bus Depot. Nora McCabe, who stood at the corner of her street, with two neighbours, was hit in the face by a plastic bullet. She died two days later. David Barrett was standing at the front door of his home, when 2 jeep loads of Brits opened up indiscriminately. Flax St Barracks had been fired on minutes previously and the jeeps were sent out on a raid

HOW MANY
DEATHS DO
THE BRITS
WANT?

CROPPIES LIE DOWN

At the funeral of Joe McDonnell, the Brits and RUC launched a snatch on the 'firing party' who had given a volley salute over his coffin. After changing clothing in a 'safe house', there was a shoot-out. Two people, a man and a woman, were arrested. In a 'follow-up' operation 4 more people were arrested. Some youths attempted to drive off the Brits who had moved into the side street for the snatch. Amid flying stones and plastic bullets, the youths were pushed back.

There followed an attack on the funeral procession itself. About 40 Brits and over 10 RUC jeeps surrounded an end section of the procession. They fired indiscriminately at children and parents, old and young. In the ensuing panic many were injured by either falling in the rush or being hit.

As well as the propaganda coup of scooping some of the 'firing party', there was a deliberate attempt to terrorise those who had come out to express support for the hunger strikers, and pay respect to the courage of Joe McDonnell.

Occurring just two days before the big loyalist Orange parades, it has also the effect of appeasing calls for 'tougher security' from the DUP, Official Unionists and UDA.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE THATCHERS RIOTS

PRISONER DEMANDS AND TYRANNY'S TRICKS

Just four days before Joe McDonnell's death, the protesting prisoners elaborated their demands. Among the most significant was 'We would warmly welcome the introduction of the 5 demands for all prisoners... [This] would not mean the administration forfeiting control of the prison... the prisoner could have his (or her) dignity restored and cease to occupy the role of established zombie.'

Around this time the Catholic church again tried 'to be seen doing something'. Previously O'Faich and Daly, and now the Commission for Justice and Peace, took part in secret talks with the NIO and the prisoners. In fact not only did they allow themselves to be tricked, but the illusion of progress created and then dashed hopes among supporters.

The refusal of the NIO to negotiate directly with the prisoners until the strike is called off is an obvious ruse to defeat the protest. The increasing attacks on the streets, and the visit of the minister responsible for prisons (Allison) to the USA, show better the intransigence of the government, and the enormous task it faces.

MARCH TO BRITISH EMBASSY, DUBLIN, JULY 18TH

SUPER-CON ELECTED

So GARRET FITZGERALD is the new t-shock: a prime minister with a clean record and as yet untarnished image. Fitzgerald is going to be a busy man for the next year or two, trying to drag the Irish capitalist economy out of its bankruptcy... and put into force the management of the new Ireland as decided by the world bank, the I.M.F., N.A.T.O., E.E.C., while at the same time keeping discontent down by stopping people getting together.

But Fitzgerald knows what he is doing. He's been secretly training since 1977 (the year he became leader of Fine Gael) as a member of the Trilateral Commission and Bilderberg groups. These are exclusive, secret, and private clubs of top bankers, industrialists, media figures, politicians, and reactionary union bosses from N.America, W.Europe, and Japan. They meet from time to time (the Bilderberg group met recently in Dublin) to discuss their view of the world which is invariably the outlook of the biggest financial and industrial corporations in the world. They arrive at some sort of consensus as to how the western world should be governed, should be controlled: They manage the social change of our present and our future. The task of politicians in the Trilateral Commission and

Bilderberg groups is to implement the decisions made through the discussions of top industrialists... they must implement the decisions yet make it look like democracy - our choice! Managing democracy, managing social change. To understand why the Irish economy is up to its ears in debts to the IMF, why Ireland is the dumping ground for every shit industry imaginable, why unemployment is going up and up, money spending power down and down, laws more and more severe, prisons full - the reasons for all this are to be found within the policies decided at these secret meetings of the world elite. And what is the job of super-clean Fitzgerald? He has been attending meetings of the Trilateral Commission and Bilderberg as a member since 1977, and in 1980 was elected to the executive committee of the TC* (the executive committee makes policy decisions and implements commission proposals). Fitzgerald also helps formulate their political documents and only this year presented a report on the "Trilateral Commission and the Middle East". Mr. Super Clean must have just forgotten to mention all that during his electioneering... after all, it is a state secret!

*To replace Executive Committee member Mary Robinson who resigned in 1980. Why did she resign? After all, she had spent nearly a decade in the secret club helping implement US government policy concerning the Shah of Iran, South African Apartheid and third world massacres. What got through to her in 1980?

If you are one of those living in a flat or bedsitter in Belfast, the chances are that you are forking out between £10-20 per week for second rate accommodation, often with no security of tenure. It is estimated that there are about 10,000 flats and bedsits in Belfast, all owned by private landlords, and for many single people, newly-wed couples, students and nurses the "private sector" is their only hope of getting any accommodation, since many cannot afford to buy their own homes or do not have enough "points" to qualify for public housing.

In Belfast, the majority of properties converted into flats are in the University area, Cliftonville and parts of the East. Many of these buildings were acquired by landlords for a relatively small sum and then converted into separate dwellings, often without planning permission and in flagrant breach of fire and health regulations. The landlords are interested only in the fast buck, and know that the authorities turn a blind eye to their activities – such is the housing crisis in this city.

Some of the dwellings are disgusting pits, and yet many people are paying through the nose to live in them. £20 a week is the asking price for a small flat consisting of one bedroom, living-room, kitchen and toilet. If you are looking for something for less, the chances are that you will be offered something that is an insult to human dignity. Dampness, rat infestation, intimidation and rent exploitation are the lot of those living in the 'private sector'.

Belfast is not the only city in this country where this type of racketeering exists. In Dublin, landlords are organised in a powerful lobby, and are currently trying to blackmail the authorities into allowing them to increase rents. In Galway, a city which has grown fat through the boom created by the student and tourist influx, some enterprising parasites have put the family car onto the street and converted the garage into "self contained flats." Hardly surprising that tuberculosis, a disease that had been virtually eradicated has now reappeared in young men and women living in sheds and garages. In Coleraine – Portrush – Portstewart, students at the new University pay, say, £20 during the college term, but are expected to fork out £60 – £100 during the tourist season. The majority, not unnaturally, pack their bags and leave.



A second attempt in recent months by hunger strike supporters to have a rally at the City Hall was attacked by the RUC. 34 people were arrested, with many more being dragged and thrown onto the road(!) from the footpath, where they had dared to sit down.

About 200 people had gathered for the advertised rally, which had also attracted 5 local councillors, and one from London. Perhaps this, with the increased number of cameras present, explains the restraint (sic) shown by an otherwise vicious sectarian

force. At the previous rally, the protestors were batoned from the City Hall grounds and towards Castle Street.

On this occasion, an RUC inspector informed one of the councillors who was about to begin speaking through a loudhailer that the rally would be permitted if no one moved and no one spoke! (Paisley would certainly lose his charisma if he were to lose his voice at his regular city hall rallies).

When a councillor proceeded to speak, the loudhailer was snatched off him and a sit-down on the pavement began. For about 20 minutes those sitting down were dragged onto the road or along the pavement. Many were pushed or thrown, but they kept coming back to sit down. If they weren't going to have a peaceful rally, they were going to have a peaceful sit-down.

But the things in green put 'plan B' into operation – arrest and bundle into a jeep those who persist. Elderly men, young women and men were bundled into jeeps, including a 14 year old girl – 34 in all.

Others, who had previous arrests weren't

It is obvious that an Ulster state would be subversive to the same thing – capitalism in Ulster, even if it called itself socialist. The modern state is simply the apparatus of political domination for the class in power. The state cannot be separated from the production relationship which created it, and which it creates every day. If there is an occupation of Ulster, it is an occupation by the capitalists. If they are British, that is a local peculiarity. Frontiers and borders are paper screens in the face of the growth of capitalist production relationships on an international level. The independence of an Ulster state can only really interest the Ulster middle class. It is not from Britain that Ulster must be delivered, but from the form of social and economic organisation which has made Ulster a British province. Capitalism has no frontiers, for it's logic and the condition of its survival is its growth. Marx said, "The proletariat are not limited by country." Today, capitalism is not limited by country and the workers have no country, anywhere.

On the subject of cultural and ethnic identity, which I discussed at length with different comrades, it seems that there is no longer any real Irish culture, only the ruins of a great and heroic past. There is no longer any social reality, life in Ulster/Ireland/Britain is the same as anywhere else – work, buy, consume, die – because the

sum then it is obvious that Ireland has more than its fair share of bums and bloodsuckers who are into making a killing out of a basic human need like housing. They get away with it because they are allowed to, because the whole power structure is on their side, and because many tenants are weak, uninformed and unorganised.

Since it seems to be the policy of both regimes in Ireland to do away with public housing over a period of years, matters can only get worse. The state housing budgets are being cut; housing stocks are being sold off; and private landlords have been allowed to increase rents in the controlled sector by up to 100% since 1978, in the vain hope that the latter would be given the "incentive" to repair and improve their properties. The "private sector", which up until now had been in decline, is now to be given a shot in the arm in order to help "solve" a part of the housing crisis.

The only effective way in which to counter the power of the landlords and those people such as estate agents and solicitors who 'front' for them in Belfast, is for tenants to organise themselves into their own lobby and action groups. Such a group cannot be built overnight it will take time, a lot of dedication and indeed many problems to overcome before it can get off the ground. I believe a flatdwellers group should take up the following in the short and medium term:

- (1) Research the extent of the plight of those in privately rented accommodation.
- (2) Take up individual cases where landlords step over the mark, giving encouragement and practical support to flat dwellers.
- (3) Campaign for legislative change and in particular on laws guaranteeing security of tenure and adherence to fire and health regulations.

In the longer term I would see the need for such a group to wage war on the whole concept of privately rented accommodation. NOBODY should be allowed to make money out of human need.

A number of us are interested in working towards building such a group in Belfast. Shortly we hope to organise a general meeting. If you are interested please contact us at:

FLAT DWELLERS ACTION, c/o 7, Winetavern St, Belfast 1.

sure if they wanted one and were herded back towards the tech. A column of RUC boxed them in against the shops and 'escorted' them towards Castle St, and part way up Divis St. At this point one stone was thrown at the RUC, whereby they opened up and fired three plastic bullets at the still walking crowd. Despite the record of these euphemistically named 'plastics', no-one was injured badly.

All 34 were released later that night and appeared in court on Monday morning. After the trials were put back a week, the crowd of supporters who had turned up headed for a press conference at the Europa. They had in fact become a demonstration, numbering about 100. Chanting and singing, they marched up Chichester St, were forced around the back of the City hall by a nervous and uncertain RUC and continued up Howard St to the Europa. On two occasions the RUC tried to stop the demonstration, but people just crossed the road, walked on a bit and rejoined – There was a City Centre demonstration after all!

people no longer have any say in their everyday lives. Irish culture in Ulster exists only in a fossilised form. If there is to be an Ulster identity it will come from a combination of free individuals, recreating a richness of individual behaviour.

So what possibilities exist for the developing of a truly libertarian struggle in Ulster? Against the sectarian ghetto mentality, Anarchists in Belfast have an almost impossible task, so it makes sense to start in the place where this mentality is at its weakest – inside the prisons. This does not mean supporting those who went from the republican side of the fence and simply ignoring those who went in from the loyalist side. All prisoners are worthy of our solidarity, and there is absolutely no reason whatsoever to assume that one side will be more likely to be sympathetic than the other to Anarchism, and to genuine libertarian struggle in Ulster. Consistent material and moral support for these prisoners is vital for when they are released they will be pressurised into re-adopting the sectarian ghetto mentality, whether republican or loyalist. Having already given a fair amount of support to those from the republican side, and almost none to those from the loyalist side, we should seek to create an opportunity to redress the imbalance, and show our true position as Anarchists.

Reactions next issue "El Faro"

not loyalist

no rally!

Military custody was first established in May 1972 when Mountjoy Prison was burned and emergency accommodation was required for civilian prisoners. The Curragh prison was opened under temporary legislation which has been renewed on three occasions. It was last renewed in 1980 for a period of three years.

At present the Curragh is the only prison in Europe which is located within an Army camp, operated solely by Army (and armed) personnel and under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defence and yet it's sole occupants are civilian prisoners.

Noel Lynch was released from the Curragh on the 3rd. April 1981. He is the longest serving Curragh prisoner as he was transferred there on the day it opened for civilian prisoners, that was November 9th, 1973. He had been a founding member of the Prisoners' Union in Portlaoise Prison in 1972 and had been elected it's president.

Union Demands Presented.

In his capacity as President of the Union, he met the then Minister for 'Justice' Patrick "prisoners have no rights, only privileges" Cooney in Portlaoise Prison in August 1973. Noel Lynch presented to him the 11 demands of the Union — All of which were reasonable. Amongst the demands were:

A call to abolish the notorious dietary punishment (then widely practised in Portlaoise);
An increase in remission;
Custodial remand time to be deducted from sentences;
New communal visiting to accommodate domestic problems with screws out of earshot during visits;
Visiting time extended from 20 minutes to 2 hours
Special visits and letters to be made available in the event of social and domestic problems.
These four demands form the basis of the 11 demands of the prisoners union.

Cooney hypocritically indicated his intention of introducing reforms, but vowed that while the prisoners remained an organised body neither Noel nor any other member of the Union would benefit from them.

The Transfer.

Shortly afterwards, in a prison reshuffle, the Provos who had been in the Curragh were transferred to Portlaoise prison. All the prominent members of the Union were rounded up and taken to the Curragh.

Thus on November 9th, 1973, the original function of the Curragh as a place of temporary accommodation was cast aside and the prison was transformed instead into an isolation facility for the disposal of 'troublemakers' who were seeking the implementation of prisoners' rights and much needed changes in the prison system. That is the present function of military custody.

THE CURRAGH MILITARY DETENTION CENTRE

Military Custody On A Permanent basis.

Recently there have been indications that the Government intend to maintain Military custody on a permanent basis (despite public protestations to the contrary) and even to extend it's use. The existing facility is an old army prison with accommodation for a maximum of 52.

In 1976, the coalition government constructed a new building beside the old prison with accommodation for a hundred prisoners. Soldiers are billeted there at present but it can be used for the purpose constructed at any time. Furthermore, in 1980 an isolation wing was constructed inside the old prison.

At present a new workshop is being built. The new structure is large, solidly built with concrete which suggests long-term use. Further, Military Police (who guard the prisoners) are being trained in teaching methods at Mountjoy Prison. Two long vacant teaching posts have been filled this year. All these developments point to the intention to use the Curragh Prison on a long term basis.

The Prisoners.

At present there are 25 prisoners in the Curragh. This is more or less the daily average since 1973. Most of them are long-term prisoners, the average sentence being 9 years. Among the prisoners is the Anarchist Noel Murray, serving a life sentence for the shooting of a policeman.

This situation has remained unchanged despite the fact that even the Government appointed visiting committee in it's annual report for the last 8 years, has criticised the use of the Curragh for long-term prisoners.

Secondly, there has always been a large incidence of mental disturbance among prisoners in the Curragh.

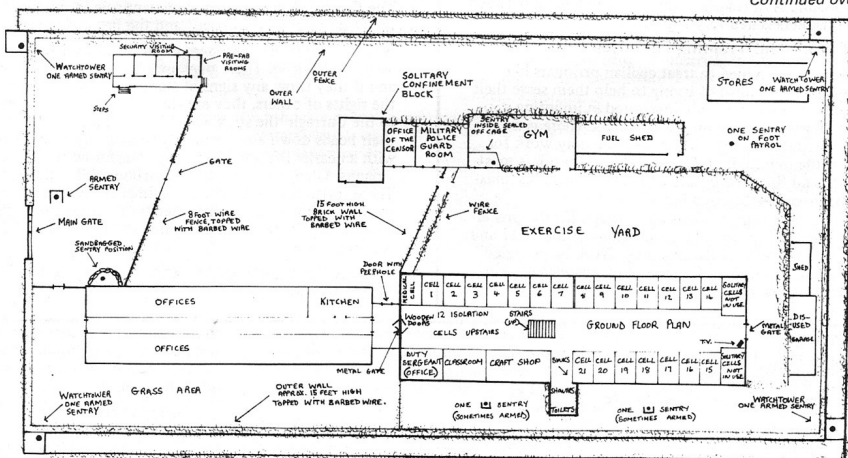
At present a quarter of the prisoners are attending the psychiatrist regularly and a third are prescribed sleeping pills nightly.

This situation is due to the dumping of disturbed prisoners to the Curragh from civilian prisons where the prison authorities do not want them to the claustrophobic effects of years spent in the narrow confines of the prison compound (see map) which was originally intended to accommodate misbehaving soldiers for a few days or a few weeks; to the tension caused by the constant surveillance of soldiers stationed in watchtowers surrounding the prison with orders to shoot to kill in the event of an attempted escape; and to the hostile attitude of the military authorities and military police to the prisoners.

Harassment.

Since 1978, the Curragh has been even more unbearable as a prison. In that year a new Governor, Adrian J. Mullooney, took command and imposed a strict military discipline. More and more prisoners were put on what is termed 'Report'. The Military Police operate this system by which a prisoner

Continued overleaf



THE CURRAGH MILITARY DETENTION CENTRE
SCALE: 1/16 INCH = 2 FEET APPROX. REFERENCE: — WALL — BARBED WIRE.

Continued from previous page

is put on 'report' for breaches of discipline or the breaking of the prison rules. He then appears before the Governor and is punished. The 'report' system also operates in a way by which each individual MP is evaluated for promotion by the number of 'reports' he makes to his superiors.

This practise ensures that the MP's have a vested interest in prison unrest and disturbances. The disturbances then in turn create the impression that the Curragh is necessary to contain these 'unruly' elements and this is one of the ways the continued existence of military custody is justified to the public.

Many of the prisoners who were put on report were punished on charges that did not exist previously ie. scraping spots of paint from the ground and not standing respectfully to attention for the Governor. It is the sort of mindless discipline that soldiers are taught to jump to without question but prisoners quite rightly objected to as it was demeaning and should not constitute part of their imprisonment.

However, refusal to obey was and is treated very severely. The normal punishment became 14 days loss of remission and on to two months loss of privileges. For long term prisoners remission is very important and the power to withdraw it is a powerful weapon in the hands of the authorities. For protesting against this petty authoritarianism, Noel Lynch lost the enormous total of 16 months remission out of his 10 year sentence.

The Protests.

The prisoners in the Curragh protested strenuously. In 1978 alone, there were three major peaceful protests before the new governor imposed his particular brand of discipline.

In 1979 there was a further protest and on March 6th, a major H Block type dirt strike started.

On this last occasion, two prisoners were wrongfully accused of damaging the cloth covering of a pool table. They lost 14 days of remission, were locked up for two months and were denied letters and visits for the same period. As a gesture of sympathy the other prisoners refused to cooperate with the authorities. They would not work nor answer the staff and left all their belongings outside their cells.

The Military Police threw everything back into the cells, and chamberpots were overturned. After that, all refuse, food, excrement and urine were put on the walls and floor. This continued for three weeks. Then MP's dressed in protective clothing entered and steam-hosed some of the cells, but these were immediately dirtied by the prisoners when they returned to them. That night, some military police (members of a clique of non-commissioned officers nicknamed 'The Gestapo') entered the cells of 4 prisoners and brutally beat them. One of the prisoners had three ribs broken.

A 7 day hunger-strike followed after which five men remained on protest until June 22nd.

On average, prisoners participating in this protest lost 8-12 weeks remission. As a result, hostility and ill feeling between staff and prisoners is at a very high level.

Lack of Work and Training Facilities.

The Army are determined to treat civilian prisoners like military prisoners. Instead of trying to help them serve their time usefully, the Army is only interested in imposing its will and military discipline on the prisoners. There is no job training or preparation for outside life. The only work for prisoners at the minute is craftwork. The craftwork is mostly organised and financed by the prisoners themselves, making wallets, thread pictures and matchstick boats.

The fact that there is no work in the Curragh for the prisoners is in defiance of the specific stipulations of the 1947 and 1972 prison rules and regulations that "Work be provided." Neither is there any facility for granting a prisoner working parole, that is, allowing him out to look for work prior to his release.

THE TRIAL.

Lord 'Justice' Gibson refused to grant bail to a 19 year old Belfast woman who was, whilst on remand in prison, about to give birth.

Gibson, with inbred arrogance, stated that "When born, your baby should apply to me for bail!" These words reflect a number of things:

— On his part, an upper class tradition of

"Stiff upper lip," emotions a thing to be suppressed and punished. Presumably, 'justice' Gibson was able to address his father as 'Sir' and clean his riding boots from birth.

— By saying that the baby should apply to him for bail, he must assume that the child has committed some crime... which says something for the Mothers chance of a fair trial — none.

— As is so often the case, the Courts rule

Noel Lynch has spent 8 years and 6 months inside. He was left at the gates of the Curragh on the morning of the third of April 1981 with IR £64 in his pocket. Before he left, an MP said to him "You'll be back."

Last year alone, the Southern state spent approximately IR £10, 000 per annum, or IR £200 per week to keep him in prison, he had all the time in the world to be trained for a good job on release (Noel Lynch wished to be trained as an electrician). He learnt absolutely nothing and he was given no assistance to start a new life in a world that is vastly different than when he left it in 1972. The prisoners on leaving face a world with 120,000 unemployed. They have no preparation or training for outside life. The ex-Curragh prisoners will either be forced to emigrate or else return to "crime," very few will get work.

A month before their release date, the prisoners name, date of birth, last address (before conviction) and more than likely his photograph will be printed in 'Fogra Tora' the confidential internal Garda bulletin. The police have also been known to print, 'likely to offend again'. This bulletin will be circulated to every Garda barracks in the state. This is the hostile world that awaits the ex-prisoner after he has 'paid his debt to society'. The Curragh prison has one of the highest levels of recidivism in the state. The lack of useful work, jobs training, the constant harassment and persecution lays waste to the theory that prison is supposed to rehabilitate offenders.

Parole.

Neither compassionate nor working parole are granted to prisoners in the Curragh.

The Department of 'Justice' has stated as it's policy that prisoners be allowed out (under escort if necessary) on compassionate grounds eg. to attend the funeral of a close relative and to look for a job prior to their release.

The Department of Defence refuses all parole. In 1975 a prisoner, Sammy Joyce, was serving only a 12 month sentence in the Curragh when his father died. He was refused leave to attend the funeral.

In 1976 Buster Carroll was refused leave to attend his Mothers funeral.

In 1980 Peter Fagan was refused leave to attend the funeral of his common law wife.

Also in 1980, Noel Lynch's Father died. He was also refused parole even though he had completed most of his sentence and a well known Priest had offered to attend the funeral handcuffed to him and so guarantee his return.

Yet at about the same time the then Minister for "Justice," Collins, granted a convicted UDA prisoner parole from Mountjoy prison to attend the funeral of a deceased parent in the North — a separate jurisdiction! — and entrusted him to the safekeeping of the leader of the UDA, Andy Tyrrie.

The Carrot And The Stick.

The Curragh now plays an important role in the tactics of the Department of "Justice" and the Penal system.

When male prisoners are sentenced they are sent first to Mountjoy prison. There they are observed by the authorities and if they show any signs of standing up for themselves or the rights of others, they are then threatened with being sent to the Curragh 'the stick'. On the other hand, if they keep their heads down and become 'yes' men they are rewarded with an easier life and ultimately transferred to the new prisons, Glengarrig Parade, and Arbour Hill — the Carrot. These prisons have a 'softer' regime. In Glengarrig Parade, the new training prison attached to Mountjoy, each prisoner on entering has to give a guarantee not to get involved in prison protests.

That is the reality of Military custody in the 'Free State' to-day.

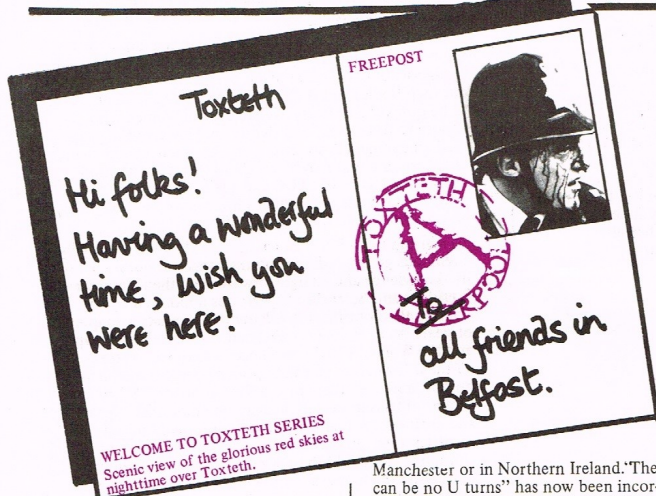
of habeus corpus is defied...the baby has not been charged, should not be considered as 'held' and as such should not have to apply for bail.

— Finally, it accentuates the fact that 'Justice' Gibson is merely another in a long line of the 'Cream of society', an elite placed in judgement whilst being void of any humanity, and lacking any comprehension of what it is to be woman, child or human. Such is the quality of justice...and didn't Kafka recognise it straight off?

Gaining Ground

OUTTA CONTROL ANARCHA-FEMINIST NEWS

The right to vote, or equal civil rights, may be good demands, but true emancipation begins neither at the polls, nor in courts. It begins in woman's soul. History tells us that every oppressed class gained true liberation from its masters through its own efforts. It is necessary that woman learn that lesson, that she realise that her freedom will reach as far as her power to achieve her freedom reaches.
EMMA GOLDMAN 1911



The British State can now add another dead hunger striker and insurrections in three British cities to its long list of atrocity and repression. Whilst people are protesting at the horror, the grief and the frustration of the policies of this government, it sits in Westminster swaddled in smugness, and superiority: an implacable brick wall. It has been the Irish who have been constantly looking at new initiatives to stop another hunger striker dying. Relatives tour the United States, publicising the issue, thousands demonstrate in the streets of the North every week and it is all condemned in the British media as IRA propaganda, just as they are trying to condemn the riots in British cities as racial violence when it is clear to everybody that it takes the police to enforce Thatcher's policies in England never mind in the North and that judging by all those bleeding policemen it won't be long before the Army is called in too. At last people in Britain are waking up to the fact that they are living in a police state and they are seeing for the first time, the same tactics used against them as have been used against us.

The British government are doing nothing, nor are they remotely interested in doing anything in London, Liverpool,

Manchester or in Northern Ireland. 'There can be no U turns' has now been incorporated into the English language as an absolute truth. Police harassment and brutality, petrol bombs, riots and CS gas are words usually reserved for Northern Ireland not Britain, and, Liverpool got its first whiff of CS gas this week.

The Toxteth part of Liverpool is an area of walk up flats, terraced houses and redevelopment, where repairs and maintenance are not being done because the repair teams have been cut back. It is an area where one school has closed down and a threat of closure hangs over another, which if it happens will mean that children will have to be bussed out of the area for secondary education. It is an area of desperate unemployment, in a city with unemployment figures the highest since the war, with over 60% of young blacks without a job.

Police harassment and brutality is no news to the people of Liverpool. Although the police have been very racist, brutality affects both whites and blacks. People still remember the Jimmy Kelly incident a man who died whilst in police custody. He had been walking home drunk one night, singing, and was stopped by police on wasteground. Local people who had heard him and witnessed the incident felt that he had died as the result of police violence and this view was not helped by the photographs of his body, covered in big gashes. Although the family mounted a campaign for a public inquiry and had the support of local councillors, they were refused it.

The media has been harping on about racial tension all the time, trying to find a scapegoat to blame as usual. The fact

Cont back page

NOW OK TO ATTACK WOMEN

Judge Russell dismissed the civil action against Atkins brought by two Armagh prisoners on the protest, Breige Ann McCaughley from Andersonstown and Eileen Morgan from Newry, and a third released prisoner, Shirley Devlin, from Newington.

They were suing Atkins for assaults and injuries resulting from the attack on republican women prisoners on February 7th 1980, which led directly to women going on the no wash protest, and a further assault in the prison yard in March of the same year.

Rose McAllister from Ardoyne, who was on protest in Armagh at the time had this to say after she had attended part of the hearing:

I felt absolute and utter disgust at the blatant lies that were told in court by the screws and the Governor Scott—the lies that man told! The decision was a foregone conclusion. The judge was biased from the start—probably that's why Scott knew he could tell lies.

What the Judge has actually done is to condone more physical violence against women in prison. He had no sympathy at all for their case. He has now given the prison authorities a free hand to attack both men and women prisoners—in fact he condemned the women for trying to defend themselves! As for the rejection of Shirley Devlin's evidence and the medical report supporting her claims—the judge pointed out that all she had was a slight bruising on her head and shoulder and that this proved nothing—its therefore acceptable to beat up a woman if you only slightly bruise her. What is ignored is the violence and brutality of the attack itself upon a woman. Any attack whether slight or ferocious—and Shirley's was ferocious (they tried to force her head through iron bars) is allowed now.

Scott in the dock justified the use of male screws by claiming that on a cell search the female screws were liable to be attacked by women prisoners. That is a lie and he shouldn't have got away with it. The point is that on cell searches all the prisoners are locked up so such an attack could not have taken place. The real reason for the use of male screws was to attack instead, to try and break and demoralise the women

LET THEM DIE!

Over the past couple of years it has become easier for women's groups in the North of Ireland to discuss the subject of abortion more publicly. Letters proclaiming that women have the right to choose whether or not to have an abortion have been published in the local press and the subject has been aired on radio and television. For women in the south of Ireland, it is a very different story, with no support coming from outside the feminist and left wing circles. The subject of choice for women is still virtually taboo with the anti-abortionists pressing for more and more reactionary measures.

The recent beginning of a campaign for a pro-life amendment to be made to the Irish Constitution has been received with fervour by all the political parties, competing with each other to be even more anti-abortion than their rivals, and by some of the most influential gynaecologists and obstetricians. Unlike the North, there have been no subsequent updates to the British 1861 Offences against the Persons Act which means that at present a woman is liable to be imprisoned for life for aiding or procuring an abortion. The only way in legal terms that this can be eased is by the woman herself, whose life was in immediate danger, taking out a

Supreme Court case to defend her own life. The Pro-life Amendment Campaign want to make the 'rights' of the woman secondary to that of the unborn foetus by guaranteeing absolute right to life to the foetus—thus, *The State recognises the absolute right to life of every unborn child from conception and accordingly guarantees to respect and protect such rights by law.*

Such organised opposition to abortion and to contraception from groups outside the Catholic Church has been growing during the last four years, since the Catholic Church realised that it was not strong enough to go it alone. Organisations like the Irish Family League and the League of Decency have come to the fore, plus the ubiquitous British organisation SPUC (Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child). Like LIFE in the North, SPUC knows that they have lost in Britain and are making an enthusiastic last stand in Ireland.

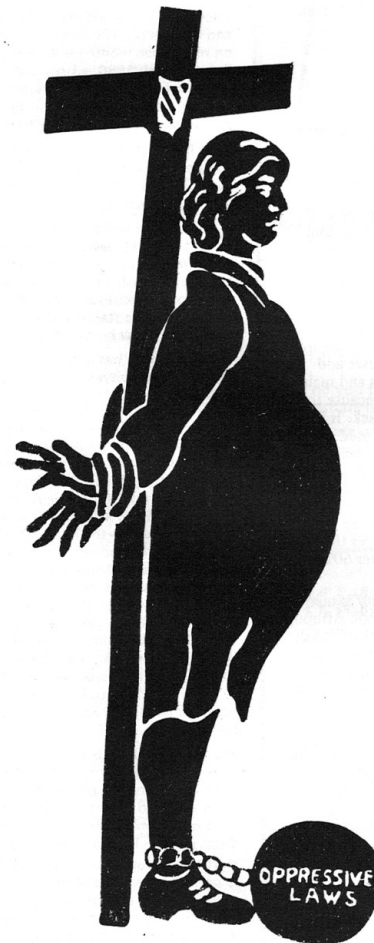
Feminists have tended to veer away from arguing over the moral, biological and scientific data presented by the anti-abortionists. The issue has been over the control of our own bodies and the choice for safe and legal abortion to be quickly and freely available to all women who choose to have one....and rightly so. However the proposed amendment is so serious and has such a good chance of succeeding that maybe we should start to question openly the claims of SPUC and LIFE, particularly on scientific grounds. A woman's life cannot be thought of as secondary to that of the foetus.

This brings us to SPUC in particular. They are essentially a religious group, hiding behind a veneer of quasi scientific knowledge and straightforward lies—their Founder President and 'scientific expert' was appointed by the Pope to the Pontifical Academy of Scientists a couple of years back. Unlike the Pregnancy Counselling groups and the Women's Right to Choose group who present all the information and the options open to women and do not pressurise them into having abortions, SPUC and similar organisations rely heavily on emotional appeal and gloss over actual facts. They continually misquote statistics about maternal deaths during abortion and childbirth to uphold their argument; they talk about murdering the 'unborn child' yet see no objections to carrying those same unborn children to meetings in pickle jars to show to people—where did the sanctity of life disappear to? Their literature is well known for its technicolour photographs of six month foetuses, given as examples of a 12 week abortion....how many women are aware that in countries where abortions are legal and easily obtained between 8-10 weeks, the foetus is about the same size as an adult's thumb nail with no obvious human characteristics and that it is only in countries where abortion legislation is restrictive that the problems of later abortion exist. SPUC and like groups are restricting the choice of Irish women by imposing their religious views on everybody—they are so fanatical that they would rather see a woman die than grant her an abortion.

It must be stressed that many women when shown colour photographs of childbirth or someone having their appendix out feel just as sickened by all the gory details and blood as they would when shown pictures of an abortion.

The anti-abortion feeling in the South spills over into other areas of pregnancy as well—a woman, for instance, who has had a malformed or handicapped child will not be screened in subsequent pregnancies to determine whether the baby is normal. Her choice is between the birth of another possible handicapped child or the abortion in England of what may well be the perfectly healthy baby that she wants. At least in the North, the Genetic Counselling service will offer immediately an abortion to women in these circumstances, on the National Health Service.

Through the Irish Pregnancy Counselling Association and the Women's Right to Choose Group, women in the south have been able to get information and counselling about abortion before going to England. Thousands of women travel to London or Liverpool every year and most arrive with little idea of what lies ahead—how to get to the clinic, who will help, what the law is, what the standards of hygiene are—many are trying to get abortions on the NHS so they give British addresses although it is a well known fact that most Irish women are too afraid to give their real address anyway...some will be wearing disguises, most will not engage in any



conversation with other women until the abortion is over, maybe not even then. These two groups have been invaluable to Irish women and need the support of Northern women. Attitudes to abortion are similar [throughout Ireland and it is going to be an uphill struggle for all of us to get free abortion on demand. Joint action between the Northern Ireland Abortion

Campaign and the Women's Right to Choose group is in the making and there will be a conference in Dublin at the beginning of November to discuss the whole issue with various 'stunts' proposed for the Southern State and Westminster to contemplate....any woman who wants to take part should contact the Women's Centre about the next NIAC meeting.

MUJERES LIBRES

Known as Mujeres Libres, there are several groups scattered throughout Spain. The following article comes from a meeting with some women out of the Madrid group in their premises which they share with several CNT unions and a libertarian Ateneo.

—First of all—we should like to make it clear that we regard ourselves as an affinity group rather than an organisation...that is, we are a group of women united by a set of ideas which place us in the libertarian camp, the camp of the anti-authoritarians.

Q. How do you see the Womens Movement today?

A. Basically we dislike all -isms, but we accept the meaning which many women invest in this word feminism, that it does not mean man's inferiority to women but a relationship of equality between the sexes in the context of an egalitarian society.

The Women's movement has gone far in theoretical terms and gone deeply into the women's situation, but in terms of participation and organisation it finds itself in a moment of crisis. Many organisations or groups are only female wings of political parties and consequently do not campaign for liberation as women, insofar as they are hindered by political interests and considerations (electoral prospects, for example).

We hold that the introduction by such groups (connected to the parties) into the Movement, or the notion that the organisations/groups of the Womens Movement should be organisationally at one with the parties who deem themselves the authentic representatives of the working class, is one of the present factors behind the present crisis of the Womens Movement. A substantial part of the Womens Movement has lost its autonomy and as a result many women have been disillusioned to discover that in practice this means that their concerns must take a back seat to some supposedly strategic broader concern.

Q. What are your relations with other organisations within the Women's Movement?

A. Here in Madrid, we are in touch with them through our participation in the Platform of Women's Organisations with a view to mounting specific actions to improve women's circumstances. On the abortion issue for instance all women's organisations are agreed. Then again there is one specific campaign upon which nearly all feminists are agreed, but which we have agreed not to join. We mean the campaign for a divorce law.

Falling back upon the old libertarian idea about free relationships without institutional bonds we refuse to campaign for divorce because we take the line that a campaign for divorce keeps the institution of marriage alive by rationalising it. We are for the non institutionalisation of a couple's relationships as well as the same thing in all human relationships. In that sense we take

communal relationships as our model against the nuclear family and the monogamous couple...without seeking to impose it of course.

We think too that the campaign for divorce would involve us in an American style process in that we would be feeding the highly profitable marriage and divorce industry.

That may seem utopian and it has brought down upon us the charge that we are a token group far removed from the concerns of the bulk of women. But we think one has to move far beyond what some narrow minds term the realities. And thus we accept the fact that we may be out on a limb here. In fact, any time that anything specific has been achieved in terms of legal reforms the real lives of many people have gone further still. For example, in the area of marriage-divorce-remarriage business, there is an increasing number of people who do not bother to marry and do not institutionalise their relationships, and this is happening not just in what are termed advanced societies such as Northern European countries, but here in Spain also.

Q. How do you stand with regard to the Mujeres Libres of the past?

A. In 1936-1939, the Mujeres Libres organisation comprised libertarian women but times have changed. We are women and libertarians too but changing times mean changes in the form and content of our struggles. For example Mujeres Libres used to campaign for basic educational facilities for women but today the State provides that already. We take the view that the real Mujeres Libres during the Civil War need to be studied but without idealising them.

Q. Finally is there a lot of male chauvinism among libertarians?

A. In this society where one is manipulated and moulded from birth so that you internalise your role as 'little boy' or 'little girl' and where you act as 'big brother' as a result, it is very hard to escape this manipulation. Thus it is in trying to rise above these real traumas of our childhood one finds, incongruously, anarcho-chauvinists, individuals who are for a free society, a just and egalitarian society but who in the moment of truth,

patronise and underate their female colleagues.

Only by realising our hypocrisies can we overcome them and that is why we exist as a specific women's group.

Since in a male society we are the most scorned of creatures of whom it asks a life of subordination, of abdication of self and that we should be the servants of others, it must be us who revolt against this 'order' and in denouncing it, we demand total and effective equality.

CORK ♀♀ CONFERENCE

Around fifty women attended the Gay Conference in Cork and of these a few were straight feminist women who came to give their support to the lesbian women. We discussed issues such as the isolation and oppression we suffered from the link with the Women's movement and the gay social scene. One straight woman made the criticism that we lesbians didn't know what we wanted or where we were going. What she failed to realise was that in a society which oppresses women, lesbians do not exist. We do know what we want: we are fighting to have our existence recognised, both as lesbians and as women. Most women felt very lonely and isolated and we felt that a national lesbian network should be established to help overcome our isolation and build a strong lesbian movement. We proposed a motion that was passed at the Conference: That all gay men's organisations in Ireland (ie 32 count counties) make resources available to assist women to establish a national lesbian network under the control of women, to be co-ordinated initially by L.I.L.

As well as discussing these issues, we talked about ourselves and got to know each other. We discussed the problems of being gay women in a male dominated society with its bourgeois morality. As lesbians we continually have to face disgust and insults; we are seen as perverts who should be locked away, and this made it extremely hard for many of us to face our gayness. When we did as in my own case, we experienced mental illness and depression. We were angry that society makes gay women and men ill and self hating, and at how the medical profession views us as psychiatric cases who need to be cured.

The way forward is clearly for the lesbian and gay men's movements — although they are separate and fighting for different things— to present a united front. But we lesbians feel that the movement should not be hierarchical, that we should have an equal say in decisions and should control more of the resources. Above all, we must show that we exist, both as lesbians and as women, and the link with the women's movement is essential in doing this.

STOP PRESS—STOP PRESS—STOP PRESS—STOP PRESS—

A new gay club, the Carpenter Club, has just opened in central Belfast. Named after Edward Carpenter, utopian socialist and gay liberation pioneer of the late 1800s the club aims to provide a non exploitative place of entertainment for lesbians and gay men in Belfast. There were only about half a dozen women there the night that I went but I hope that if more women support the club we will in time feel the club is for us as much as for the men and a friendly and progressive atmosphere will be encouraged. I did find my ears battered by the heavy disco music and my senses disorientated by the peacock pattern of the lighting; other dancers tottered back into the cafe area looking pale and shaken, so it wasn't just my age! I also found (a more serious criticism) my pocket emptied by the high cost of membership (£5)—there should be a reduction for those not in employment. For more information contact NIGRA or Carafriend at Belfast 22023

that there is not really any anti-black feeling in Toxteth where white people have been living with black people for years does not seem to deter them. It was clearly and definitely a 'mixed' riot and that the incident which sparked it off, a black youth riding along on a bicycle, stopped by police and accused of stealing it, could not have provoked such a spectacular response had there not been grievances against police harassment for years previously. In fact everybody has been saying that this was going to happen in Liverpool for ages and Thatcher's policies have put the lid on it....or blown it off! Liverpool like Bristol has one of the oldest established black communities in Britain. It is a well known fact that both cities owe much of their prosperity in the past to being part of the slave triangle between Africa and America. The black community in Liverpool has been there since the nineteenth century. It has received few benefits. Money has been spent in Liverpool on providing community facilities for ethnic minorities, there is a Pakistani centre and a Caribbean centre, but Liverpool born blacks have been ignored, and anyway they want jobs first not centres. It is significant that the Peoples March against unemployment originated in Liverpool earlier this year and that there was a big response to it. It was one of the peaceful ways in which Liverpool people have been protesting for years, and was duly reported and then ignored by the British government. Although a majority of cities in Britain declared their city council to be an equal opportunity employer years ago, Liverpool have only recently done so, even though people have been pushing them for quite a while. ...there are still few blacks employed by them.

Areas like Toxteth may have realised to some extent what British repression means to people in the North of Ireland. The British State will not give an inch. We have seen what happens to 30,000 people who go to the polls and vote for Bobby Sands, the only peaceful and legal protest that the British Government has left us, so that through this totally meaningless gesture of democracy it can be publicised world wide as well as to the people of Britain, that people do think the prisoners five demands are reasonable and should be granted, and, that it is not just a 'handful of extremists' who think so.... and what happens....30,000 people are accused of being IRA supporters alias thugs and hooligans so their vote is of no importance even if they did play the game. The British media are now virtually saying rather than implying that all Catholics are thugs and hooligans (this does not seem to exclude the Catholic hierarchy!) and that as such all Catholics in England should disassociate themselves. London, Liverpool and Manchester may yet experience at first hand the treatment meted out to 'thugs' and 'hooligans'. The British State has been quick, too quick, to point out that rioters in Manchester are 'just looters and arsonists' and so playing on the traditional conceptions people have about 'criminals'. They want to cloud the issues involved, the social and economic crises that they have themselves created. The similarity with Ireland and the British policy of criminalising political activists is too clear to mistake

It is a sad lack in women's papers that there is little or nothing written about women living in the country in Ireland. Ireland is a predominantly rural country and yet the problems faced by rural women have hardly ever been discussed in feminist circles in Belfast for instance. The following was written out of a conversation with a friend of ours who has been living in Co. Down for the last ten years....we would welcome more articles on the subject.

COUNTRY LIFE

Why did you move out to the country?

I moved out to the country in the early seventies after having lived most of my life in Ardoyne. As a teenager most of my thoughts had been on how to enjoy myself, although I knew what was going on around me, the pressures people were living with and at that time the continual threat to people of sectarian assassinations. I felt those pressures too and I wanted to get away from it but it wasn't until I was twenty or so that I really began to think about what was going on around me. Living in the country where I do you don't come in contact with people who share the same views or stimulate your interest to get involved as a person in your own right although that is coming together for me now.

Did you feel isolated?

Yes it can be a problem. At first it is a novelty for friends to come out and see you but it wears off. You can get very dependent on friends coming out to see you, it isn't simply a matter of popping round the corner or if you want a break in the day going for a wee dander in the town. But you gradually become more in tune with the country. I love the silence and tranquillity now, cycling into Crossgar for instance, when before I wouldn't have seen any beauty in a country lane....it was just boring to me.

Hoe do you think your children 's life here differs from your own in Belfast?

Well, there is plenty of space for them to play and no traffic for a start! They don't have to establish themselves as street fighters and I don't have to go out and do battle for my children. It could get quite rough in Ardoyne with mothers scrapping over their children.

Kids book REVIEW—ANGELA'S STORIES

At last I've found a really fascinating children's book that's written for and about children living in working class streets in Belfast. There are eleven beautiful wee stories about how a single parent and two children move from a small flat into a house of their own with their own yard on Majuba Street and become accepted and make friends in the community. Its one of those book books that are impossible to review, you just see something in every line that you want to write down. Its full of Belfast axioms and colloquialisms—the house they move into looks like a three minute warning, they go to the chippy on a Friday night, they have races on

I don't feel that I could have done that. The kids are much more sensitive to nature, they know a lot about birds and trees and flowers, they play games like all kids—Brits and Provies—but they miss out on street games with lots of kids like hide and seek and red lights. I don't know how it will affect them as they get older. Teenagers are lost round here, there is nothing for them to do at all.

What's school like for them?

Its a bit of a hassle. You have to go a couple of miles and you don't get a selection of schools to choose from. Its a lot harder to get a school with a 'broader' education. I find country schools narrow in their outlooks, more insistent on uniforms and that sort of thing. The school hasn't got many facilities, there is no gym equipment, just the odd game of rounders once a year, they don't go in for day trips or nature walks—most of the day is spent in the classroom. The teacher/pupil ratio is better but then they are trying to close down some of the schools and amalgamate to make them bigger. You can't pick and choose your schools because you don't want your child to know children nine miles away, you want them to have friends in their own area.

What about yourself. How do you feel about country life?

I can't believe I ever lived in a terraced house. They make me feel claustrophobic and then you are always aware even subconsciously of the neighbours and the noise and whether you are disturbing them. I can see how living in the country you could lose what pushes you to be sociable. There have been certain periods over the years when I have felt I was becoming inward looking and it got hard to talk to people. You start to lose confidence in yourself. I don't feel that at the moment. It would be almost impossible for me to find women interested in starting a women's group, I might manage a 'coffee morning' maybe, but I suppose this would apply to parts of the town as well. Ideally country life would be marvellous if you could build up a community of people who felt the same way about sharing and helping each other but unfortunately 'country living' has become so fashionable that property is out of reach financially for most working class people.

their bikes up the entries, they talk to each other in 'real' language—me Mammy, me Da, wee boys, wee girls, yous, wee taste of tea, etc etc.

Farsen admit that that the characters are socially stereotyped, but the stories are so funny and so real, so full of ideas and traditions that even so they actually helped me to talk to my daughter and son about the roles they were expected to play out on the street. There were knowing smiles between us when we got to the conversation between Sandra and Betty and Sandra says 'I'm glad you came to live in our street. There's only been wee boys up till now'. —well worth reading and The Bus Run got them thinking!

Available from Farsen Co-operative Press Press, 95 Shankill Road, Belfast. Price £1.50 or from Just Books, 7 Winetavern Street, Belfast.

outta control

**News & Views of the
Belfast Anarchist Collective**

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW
MORE ABOUT THE BAC...
WRITE: BAC, C/O
MINSTER ST.,
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OUTTA CONTROL... of the state, bosses, patriarchy, schooling, churches... As Anarchists we oppose the authority and exploitation of this society and advocate one of FREE association and self-management. This paper comes out EVERY FOUR WEEKS and we welcome contributions, criticisms etc.

PULLING THE POLYESTER OVER OUR EYES!

The artificial fibre industry is one of the biggest employers in the North. But this year it has ground almost to a halt, as the multi-nationals pull out because their profits aren't high enough.

Courtaulds, at Carrickfergus, have laid off 3,000, and at Campsie, near Derry, another 630. ICI near Larne, have sacked 2000. And last month at Antrim, Enkalon announced the loss of 1300 jobs.

There has been little opposition from the workers, who have an uncritical view of their trade union leaders. John Freeman explained the unions strategy to oppose the bosses "No one can criticise the company" he said on TV. "Its not for me to question the internal affairs of a company" The redundancies have been agreed with the trades unions who have been silenced by very large redundancy payments and the usual argument about 'world wide recession-over capacity - fierce international competition etc.

ICI PROFITS
In 1978 ICI's profits were £421m In 1979 £613m but collapsed to £284m in 1980.

LIFE AT THE TOP
But a rather different fate awaits the executives of ICI.

Dr. Brian Smith is the ICI main board director with responsibility for fibres, which last year cost the company £481m. Rather than face redundancy, he is being promoted to head of ICI American operation. He received £30,000 which has increased to £270,000. His £204,000 home, bought largely with ICI money, is rented to him for £23 a week.

Denys Henderson, the lowest paid executive member of the ICI board - £32,016 per year - is also having a £88,000 flat provided for him. Like all other board members, he can only be sacked on 3 years notice. The Chairman, Sir Maurice Hodgson, receives £137,000 a year. Of course, the company cars, free food, private enclosures, high pensions, expense accounts, special £1,788 London Allowance, etc., also go with the executive jobs. Things are so arranged in ICI that a cadre of 2,300 executives live a life equally protected from the financial realities of the 80,000 workforce.

KNOW YOUR ENEMY

Since our last issue, three more hunger-strikers have died in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh - Martin Hurson from Aghnaskeah, Co. Tyrone, Kevin Lynch from Dungiven, Co. Derry, and Kieran Docherty (an elected member of the Southern Parliament) from Andersonstown, Belfast. Eight young men have now died, with Tom McElwee reaching a critical condition.

The callous manipulation of such bodies as the Commission for Justice and Peace, and the Red Cross, at moments when some of the prisoners were struggling to live, shows that the NIO has no intentions of solving the hunger strike.

WHY ?

The Belfast Central H-Block and Armagh Committee put out a leaflet last week entitled 'Why the Hunger Strike Continues'. We are to put 'all our energy into convincing the grass roots of the Catholic Church, the SDLP, and Southern Government party that the prisoners' cause is a just one - so that they in turn will (make) demand(s) of their own leaders.' All our energies ? What of the thousands who take to the streets to protest, what of the power of workers and civil disobedience

down South ?

WHO ARE OUR ENEMIES ?

Instead of relying on those sections of society, in whose interest it is to defeat the criminalisation of prisoners, we are to concentrate on some of the most authoritarian sections. To convince the ruling classes of Ireland, who daily exploit and manipulate us, to support the prisoners, is to ask them to attack themselves.

Of course they want to see an end to the hunger strike, because the protest, and support it generates, threatens them. Their backing of the various commissions' interventions shows they are prepared to undersell the prisoners.

In short, the Big Three won't back the prisoners, unless they can sell them and us out. We must rely on ourselves, introduce new tactics and persevere at others. The 4-Day March from Newry to Dublin did not receive the support it deserved from national organisations such as the National H-Block Committee, Sinn Fein, and IRSP. The possibilities of that march, such as industrial action, and joint sharing of experiences, north and south, did not materialise.

CIVIL ORDER = PLASTIC DEATH

Since April this year there have been six deaths from plastic bullets. Scores of people have been seriously injured including fifteen year old Paul Lavelle who is in on a life support system and Kevin McLaughlin aged fourteen who is still unconscious after being hit on the back of the head by a plastic bullet on May 19th and is likely to be paralysed for life.

These lethal weapons have been described by Herman, the RUC Chief Constable as a 'minimum force weapon'.... 'not intended to kill'. However this statement has been contradicted by no less a person than Willie Whitelaw, British Home Secretary and one time Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. He said that he could

Contd. on inside front page



The LOYALISTS

STATE OF SIEGE

The Loyalist State since its beginning has always seen itself as a community under siege. Throughout its history it has had to be defensive in maintaining its existence by any means necessary through the B Specials, RUC, UDR or UDA.

DON'T BE VAGUE - SHOOT A TAIG

The hard line loyalist answer to Catholics not knowing their place is to kill some of them. The sectarian assassinations carried out by the loyalist paramilitary groups may be silently condemned by the majority of Protestants, but murders carried out by the State's 'peace keepers' towards innocent Catholics are never questioned and are whitewashed over by the state.

Continued on inside back page

FROM ENCLOSURES TO BATTERY FARMS

ECOLOGY is simply our relationship to the natural world ... us and nature ... how we understand that relationship, how we act within it. The system we live in, our culture, decides that relationship... it decides our attitudes and responses to the natural world. So land, under private (usually family) ownership, and used for gain and profit through factory-type farming, is the key to understanding ecology. Because people do not feel themselves to be in any degree of harmony with the natural world, with the fields and the countryside.

On the contrary, most people are denied any access to land, that right going traditionally from father to son through family ownership. The land is NOT something we all can share in, can work together ... it is seen as the way to make money for a few, to abuse as much as possible, to sell, to increase profits, to buy more machinery.*

That is the logic of private ownership. But farming has not evolved such a way by accident... it is the direct result of government policies and the development of machinery/technology. Policies and technology that see nature as something to be dominated, controlled ... as something in the service of the few. Indirectly, of course, we all get fed ... but at what cost? We shall see.



The Gov/Multi-national Connection.

Farming is more or less run by governments, who in turn carry out the wishes of huge chemical companies - always it is THEIR interests which get pushed. The farmers at the other end are only too eager to follow. Pesticides / insecticides / herbicides are manufactured and pushed by big drug companies... they are no longer an 'aid' to farming, but a short-cut to money-making, replacing all traditional methods. Government tries not to interfere, preferring taxes to real food. Agriculture becomes based on long-term disaster as the millions of tons of artificial chemicals pumped and sprayed into the ground become lethal! Stronger and more lethal doses have to be used every year, as insects, supposed to be killed, build up resistances ... the bigger the dose of chemical used, the greater the danger to humans, animals, the soil, food. The chemicals accumulate in the soil, and slowly build

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not sanction the use of plastic bullets in Britain because it would mean 'inflicting injury and death on rioters'.

If these deaths and injuries had been caused by the use of 'live' ammunition there would have been an outcry. However, although these plastic bullets have been shown to kill and maim, their name gives a false impression of their lethal nature, suggesting a toy bullet. They are actually called 'baton rounds'. They replaced the rubber bullet in 1972 because of the injuries and deaths caused by rubber bullets. The death toll of plastic bullets far exceeds that of rubber bullets. A plastic bullet is a blunt PVC cylinder, 3½ inches long and

up - without notice or warning. Like radiation, the effect is additive ... maybe cancer in 10; 20; 30; years' time. The chemical industry persuades us to use all we can ... they encourage calendar spraying, spraying whether the so-called disease is about or not. They encourage spraying in advance of an outbreak; they encourage spraying to make vegetables look nice, irrespective of what harm it is doing.

Meanwhile we are encouraged to BUY, to consume, vegetables, depending on how they LOOK, not their flavour or goodness. The agri-chemical industry, always claiming too much government control even where there is very little, push cancerous products to the landowner out to make money. Slowly but surely the land is becoming polluted to the point of no return. Governments watch, always eager to deny the danger of these chemicals, yet stay in business by making into a taboo harmless things like marijuana. Of such is their logic feeding our minds shit, full of taboo.

Realising the accumulating dangers, and following in the footsteps of the American technocrats, some EEC bureaucrats issued a 'directive' which would require member states to restrict or withdraw certain chemical compounds. (The USA government banned DDT amongst other chemicals, but the multinational pushers sold their drugs, abroad, particularly in Third World countries). These 'restricted compounds' remain in use in both Britain and Ireland. They will not be banned... until 'effective alternatives become available'. A bit like saying we'll do away with some, when we get its equivalent on the market with a new hyped brand name.

The chemicals work hand in hand with the new farming mentality - of big machinery, EEC grants, bigger fields, ripping up hedges, spraying for everything, irrespective of the workers' health or those that live or grow nearby the big, neat, synthetic, approach to land they use and abuse as they are led, just because it is OWNED.

To argue that this is needed to feed the world's millions shows just how far we have gone away from any understanding of the earth's potential, and got filled up with nonsense. EEC mountains and lakes is the new agri-culture. Polluted land, harmful food, with most of us divorced from the land, becomes the modern twist to ecology, just like the world government push for nuclear power; it is multi-nationals and governments which gain at the expense of a slow poisoning of us all. And to change things? Clearly, the modern wholefood shop is NOT the answer. It leaves us divorced from the rural reality, substituting pre-packed Third World commodity rice for any personal connection with what is potentially around us. The answer comes from an urban / rural consciousness ... a belief in the NEED to regain our touch of earth. And that can only come about when the ordinary people who live in city batteries feel that need.

* Granted, there are many spots in Ireland where living on the land is difficult, where survival is full-time. Such small-scale farming is being done away with by Government/EEC policies. But even then, the culture of agri-business still plays a big role.

1½ inches in diameter. Even at a range of 50 yards its velocity is 47 metres per second and it is 65 metres per second at five yards. Also bullets are often 'doctored' with torch batteries and coins or sharpened to make them even more dangerous.

Instructions issued to the British Army on the use of plastic bullets state:

'The rounds must not be fired at a range of less than twenty metres'
'They should be aimed so they strike the lower part of the target's body directly'
The bullets are designed 'to disperse crowds' Over the past few months it is evident that the RUC and the British Army are firing plastic bullets at people when there is no disturbance whatsoever. Mrs

On the road to Dublin

On Saturday, July 25th., about 12,000 people brought the city of Dublin to a virtual halt whilst they peacefully asserted their right to demonstrate their support for the hunger strikers in **Long Kesh**. With Kieran Docherty T.D. and Kevin Lynch both in serious condition at that time, the vast crowds declared their intent to increase pressure on the Dublin government to take practical and negotiating measures in support of the demands of the prisoners.

The event in Dublin was the climax of a four-day march which involved people from all corners of the 'Free State', and of the North. From Wednesday onwards local groups had made their way along country roads and major highways, making a considerable impact in terms of slowing traffic, generating interest in, and support of, the issues involved. Much-needed funds were also collected along the route and marchers carried flags and banners showing their places of origin. The Gardaí accompanied each local group and were out in massive force when the thousands of people finally met in Dublin and marched from the GPO on a route past Leinster House to the Gardens of Remembrance where wreaths were laid.

Whilst the march had many successes - such as bringing the social and commercial life of the city to a halt, creating propaganda and media interest - it must be recognised that demonstrations of this kind have a limited use and are never the sole means of shifting an intransigent State. 12,000 people were policed and contained, and it is unlikely that governments trembled as a result or felt in any way politically threatened. It will always be a combination of tactics, passive and active, that will achieve progress. For one element (whichever it is) in any campaign to regard itself as the sole means of success, is delusion. Whilst preparing for future demonstrations of this kind, it is hoped that people concerned will do more to mobilise active support from the towns where marchers stop. It is necessary to encourage industrial, commercial and social interest in supporting the campaign - from workplaces and by civil action (in significant numbers) and by autonomous organisation. Only then, when a civil population shows massive purpose, will progress be made.

Nora McCabe was fatally injured when she was hit on the head as she was standing at a street corner in conversation... the streets were quiet at the time. The number of incidences where people were hit on the head demonstrates that the Security forces are deliberately aiming for the head region to inflict the most damage. Herman insists 'they are used against rioters' Yet elderly ladies and four and a half year old boys seem very unlikely rioters!

There have never been any deaths or serious injuries inflicted on the security forces in these circumstances no member of the security forces has ever been called to account for the death of or maiming of an innocent person.

VIDEOS: NEW VIDEOS ON THE DUBLIN EMBASSY MARCH & THE NEWRY-DUBLIN 4 DAY MARCH - THE FIRST - ONE HALF HOUR - £1.00 TO HIRE - £4.00 TO BUY - SECOND - ONE HOUR - £2.00 TO HIRE - £4.00 TO BUY - TOGETHER - £12.00 TO BUY - CONTACT JUST BOOKS

JUST OUT 'EXCELLENT BOOKLET' 'RUBBER & PLASTIC BULLETS KILL AND MAIM' - VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY RUC AND BRITISH ARMY IN N.I. (IRELAND) - A DOCUMENTATION BY THE ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL JUSTICE. AVAILABLE FROM JUST BOOKS.

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Contd. from front page

Loyalist prisoners went on hunger strike coinciding with the republican prisoners first hunger strike. By doing so the UDA would have to accept the republican idea that there are political prisoners. Whereas the British government maintain it is a law and order situation and therefore only 'ordinary' criminals exist. Pressure was put on the loyalist prisoners to abandon their protest. The UDA were not prepared to in any way aid the republicans even at the expense of deserting their own prisoners.



NO CHINKS IN THE ARMOUR

The majority turn a blind eye or are unaware of the sectarian nature of the state. With the abolition of Stormont, the direct rule regime hoping to remove the excesses of the orange state exposed the discrimination in housing and jobs through their various reports and commissions. The power of local councils to allocate houses was removed. When the Equal Opportunity Commission asked firms to sign a declaration advocating there would be no discrimination in jobs many loyalists didn't on the grounds that to do so would be to admit that there ever was discrimination against Catholics.

Various loyalist ideas exist about Catholics - they amount to racism - they are lazy and work shy; their housing is bad because when given new homes they reduce them to slums; they are dirty; they have large families due to the priests urging them to outbreed Protestants the catholic religion is all voodoo and connected with the devil.

PROTESTANT WORK ETHIC

The protestant work ethic believes that through work you will achieve salvation and there is an inherent dignity in labour. You are encouraged to work hard, or to be seen to be working, and you shouldn't really be enjoying it.

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

They hold certain myths about their own community. They look down on the Catholics who rely on state benefit as if they were the only ones who do so. Yet daily more and more Protestants are signing on. And for years their prime industries such as the shipyard which employs mainly Protestants has been relying on massive government subsidies to keep them open. This year alone it lost £32,000,000. Not

to mention the other state handouts in the form of government orders, employment subsidies, low wage supplements etc.

PAISLEY FOR POPE

The Loyalists believe they are more progressive than the 'priest ridden' south. Yet they massively vote for the most reactionary MPs and councillors who at every opportunity are anti-working class, take the most right wing stands and do their best to ensure that any progressive legislation passed on the mainland doesn't effect Northern Ireland.

Think of the sort of country the DUP would like to run: total control of education by the cleric (There goes the Darwin theory), abortion would carry a prison sentence for women, so would homosexuality for the lucky ones, harsher sentences for dope; and catholics need not apply of course.

MIRROR MIRROR ON THE WALL, WHO IS THE MOST LOYAL OF THEM ALL?

The Unionists may not be the monolithic block they once were but unfortunately the fragmentation has only meant that the unionist political parties now lie between right wing and fascist. The politicians vie with each other to see who can become the ultra loyalist and detect the slightest smell of a sell out.

Any signs of drifting towards the 'beggar-ridden' 'Free' state is met immediately with the lambeg speeches and if need be the all-out opposition such as the U.W.C. strike. Dis-loyal to remain loyal!

NOT A CENTIMETRE

With every news item mentioning their future Queen, Lady Di, especially with the 12th coming up, this has strengthened the loyalist connection and the visual opportunity to demonstrate their link with Britain by ramming the union jacks down the fenians throats.

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

In one factory the workers went on strike when the management removed the union jacks and other wedding paraphernalia from the work place. They were forced to put them back again. In loyalist dominated factories throughout Ulster it is usual to find workers flaunting little loyalist mementoes.

UNABLE TO MOVE

Daily we hear reports of redundancies in major industries, which hit protestant workers now more than ever. They perhaps feel that any grass roots agitation or direct action would further de-stabilise the North and therefore play into the hands of the republicans. They therefore have little option but to rely on the politicians and trade union leaders to crawl to Thatcher. And we all know what a failure that has been.

The Loyalists are held prisoners of their own making. Just after the collapse of the Unionist party some working class leaders questioned the role of their unionist masters in exploiting the working class protestants but ultimately they would have had to face up to the realisation of their own collaboration in discrimination from which they benefitted. And this they were not prepared to do.

LOYALISTS KILL NON LOYALISTS

Any progressive protestants who see through

the contradictions of loyalism will challenge the right of the state to exist through its use of discrimination in housing and jobs. They, unfortunately are forced to keep quiet or get out of a loyalist community by intimidation. And it is almost impossible for any new generation to unmask loyalism for the reactionary face that it is. Protestants are isolated by a sectarian mental and physical wall.

YOU ARE WHAT YOU READ

They rely on state information via TV with all its lies and distortions. Newspapers like the Belfast Telegraph and Newsletter only serve to reinforce their position and ideas. They listen to their leaders to interpret events and show them the way. Socialist organisations have little or no way of openly selling their papers and any papers which have been issued by predominantly working class groups like the UDA have been obviously sectarian and racist.

OUT OF THE DARKNESS

Occasionally tenuous links are created between protestant and catholics such as in the latest agitation against rent increases. The organisers have tried to stay clear of involving any politicians less they should lose support from one side or another. Unfortunately if the campaign should receive widespread support it only takes the orange or green card to be played to smash any joint action. (The DUP have already made inroads in certain areas.)



Passing the myths from father to son

Lately young people step out of the loyalist mentality and begin to meet catholics through cultural activities. They may well reject the blatant sectarianism but this is at the expense of becoming apolitical, or a total rejection of anti-British activities because they see any opposition as an extension of the IRA campaign.

Some youths become 'super' loyalists and join the ranks of the various paramilitary groups.

Ultimately the British state wants a bourgeois solution. It doesn't really matter to them what politicians are in power so long as British companies and multi-nationals can get cheap labour for their factories and sell their shitty goods. And even install a cruise missile here to protect the British 'way of life'.

THE FINAL SOLUTION

Now that the British Government and the multi-nationals are the main employers in the North it will be easy to apply economic sanctions on the loyalists to accommodate the catholic politicians. They just have to start by withdrawing subsidies to ailing industries, welfare payments etc. No longer can the loyalists consider standing on their own feet especially with the decline of any economic backing from the native capitalists whose support they did have at the state's inception.

The British can take a chance on the loyalist backlash, but given the depressive economic future pointed out to them they will accept some form of power sharing or immigration.... but how would the republicans react and are there any alternatives to this bleak future. REPUBLICANISM EXAMINED NEXT ISSUE!



NOWHERE TO GO - BUT THE BOAT!

There's little enough for young people here, but now, the Harp Bar, the centre for punk music has closed its doors to punks. Though not because punk is dead. The punk culture has probably lasted longest here because it strongly reflects the state of things in Northern Ireland. And as most kids are on the dole, it is the easiest cultural image to adopt, as you don't need the money to buy fancy clothes.

HAVE A HARP

The owner of the Harp Bar didn't make enough profit because people weren't buying enough booze. It was a grotty place anyway. The owner, who doesn't give two fiddles as to what sort of music is put on, and quick to spot a good thing, has turned it into a Country & Western Club. Obviously he thinks the music is more conducive to people getting pissed. Anything for a fast buck.

NO ANSWER

There are a few clubs where pub owners let people run it themselves. They take the money on the door, which goes towards providing the music. Any live bands have, of course, to be acceptable to the pub owner. Ultimately, you end up working for the bar man lining his pockets.

GOOD CLEAN FUN

BJ's Rock Club in the cinema in Holywood obviously suffers from its location in attracting large crowds and therefore is unable to pay for top groups. It also doesn't have a licence, and a lot of people feel they need to get stoned to enjoy themselves, but that's another story.

DRINK UP AND FUCK UP

Apart from that, there are also the various

straight clubs where you can listen all night to dead disco and fulfil your lifetime's role as a passive consumer, watching the spectacle.

NICE BOYS AND GIRLS ONLY

Many leisure activities are usually on someone else's terms, i.e. private enterprise, church, state, school. It's almost impossible to organise our own activities when all the resources belong to these groups, and you have to conform to their rules to get to use them.

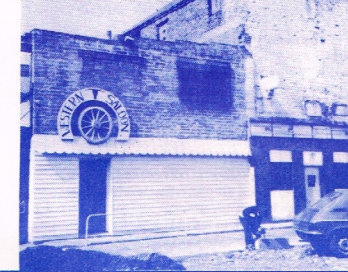
THEIR CULTURE

Mainstream culture reflects and reinforces the consumer, authoritarian capitalist society we are forced to live in. Resistance culture is a reaction to it and challenges, at times, the status quo in very dynamic new ways. However, the System often has the knack of absorbing revolutionary ideas and selling them back to us at a profit. Crass find themselves constantly being ripped off by entrepreneurs.

HANG ON

But wait, don't despair, think twice before going to London, for soon there will be something round the corner in Belfast.

Harp Bar with instant plastic facade.



ally the British state and its efforts to maintain 'authority'; and why do we have a guerilla war, mass demonstrations, wholesale rejection of that authority? Surely it is because there is resistance to imperialist control, including a cultural resistance.

Some of us are not sure of what 'great and heroic past' he's referring, but struggles such as the hunger strike, the street battles and demonstrations against overwhelming military and media odds are 'heroic' (if he insists on the term). That the methods, organisation and culture have elements of reaction is common to any social movement of rebellion, and is partly explained by the intensity of exploitation and repression, and partly by the small presence of revolutionary groups.

On prisoners, 'There is absolutely no reason whatsoever to assume that one side will be likely to be more sympathetic than the other to anarchism'. Apart from the conclusions of analysis, we have found by experience that the prisoners who contact us, and who adopt anarchist positions, are those from the 'republican side'. We remain open to all approaches, as is evidenced by our Book Scheme, which is open to ALL prisoners.

Finally, the constant use of the term 'Ulster' reflects a continuing respect for the ideas of the UDA. 'Ulster' refers not to the 9 counties, but to the arbitrarily-partitioned 6, which were big enough to prove viable as a state, but small enough to ensure a loyalist majority. It was used by those who became disillusioned with Britain's commitment to a sectarian state.

RAIDS IN LEEDS

On Saturday 11th July, a working-class council estate in Leeds received a dawn visit from the anti-terrorist squad. A house was surrounded by armed police, their weapons trained on the windows and door, and the occupant - an anarchist - was woken up and taken away. The house was searched with a sniffer dog, floorboards were taken up, internal bulletins of the North-East Anarchist Federation and the Direct Action Movement were photographed and a metal detector was used in the garden. A next-door neighbour who came out to find out what was going on also had her house searched. She later contacted friends of the detained man to let them know what had happened.

At the same time two other anarchists were raided and all three men were taken to a suburban police station where cells had been prepared for them four days previously. Anarchists and others pestered the police station where they were held (the police, incidentally, denied all knowledge of the detained men) all weekend.

During their interrogations of the three anarchists, the political police revealed that one of the anarchists, who had recently been to Ireland on holiday, had been followed while in Dublin. They also revealed a detailed knowledge of those attending hunger-strike demonstrations and vigils. The political police said they had received information that the three anarchists were plotting to blow up the Royal Wedding but at 2.30 pm on Sunday afternoon, the three men were released without being charged with anything. This incident is yet one more proof that, not only in Northern Ireland, but increasingly in England too, a dawn visit by the political police is a fact of life for political dissidents.

TAKE NOTE

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H-Block Posters, produced by the Anarchist Information Group. Give-away prices: 50p for 50 posters. (Same address as above).

NEW POSTER. 'Harrassment every day, signing on every week, Outta Control every so often'. Posters 5 pence each. Postage rates 15p per 1-10 copies, 20p per 10-20 copies. 20 or more copies postage free. (Again, same address as above).

CARNMORE 81 * Free Festival * 12-16 August Workshops on uranium mining, nuclear power, missiles etc * exhibitions * creche * top Folk * Rock * and new wave bands * NOT to be missed.

PRISONERS BOOK SCHEME. Wise Up! Get political. Do you realise what it's like to be locked up 23 hours a day? Stuff the booze to-night, send what you'd spend on a night's drink so that we can continue to send books free or at least half price to any prisoner who asks. Send to: Just Books, 7 Winetavern Street, Belfast BT1. Tel: Belfast 25426.

A REPLY TO A LETTER WHICH APPEARED IN OUR LAST ISSUE.

El Faro's letter provoked much controversy some anger when the Collective discussed putting it OUTTA CONTROL. Its merits were to dispel the illusion of 'independence' within the world of international capital; and an emphasis on the capitalist nature of imperialism.

But some of us took great exception to several other statements. To say that the author is 'no more confused than most people over here, stricken as we are by the sectarian ghetto mentality' is condescending to say the least. At worst it is a regurgitation of the British government's ideology, which has troops here peace-keeping between 2 hostile sectarian tribes.

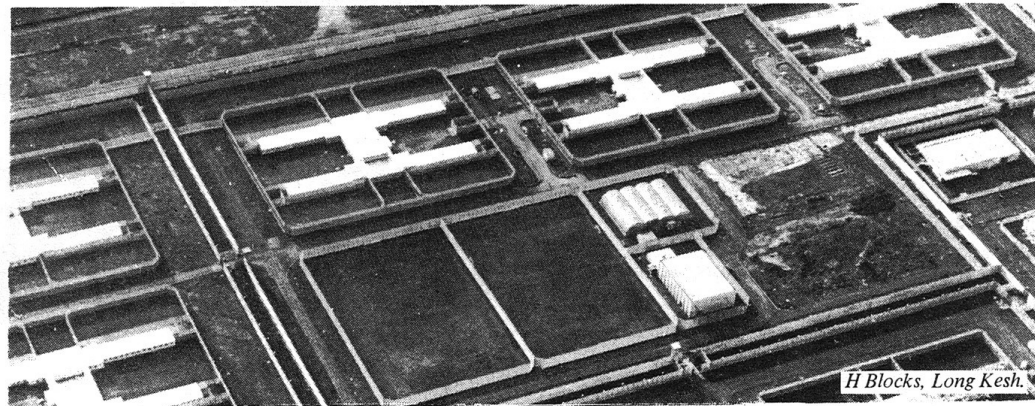
'El Falso' misses the point that the State itself institutionalised and creates sectarianism by discriminating against one section of the population in favour of another. The favoured section identifies with that State for the relative improvements it achieves.

Apparently there is 'no longer any social reality here'; life is the same as anywhere else. Nor is there any longer 'any real Irish culture', only the ruins of a great and heroic past'. We see that capitalism has imposed itself on most social and cultural relations, but to assume that it alone has done so completely and successfully begs several questions - what is the role of the state, specific-

HUNGER STRIKE: TRUTH THE FIRST CASUALTY

The following letters were smuggled out of H Block 5, Long Kesh, in Northern Ireland. The prisoner who wrote them wants to explain the real background to the protest, which has of late culminated in the hunger strike — Six people have already died, and the government have shown no sign of changing their pig-headed attitude which they unashamedly display in so many aspects of their policies.

In Britain there exists great confusion about the prisoners struggle. Primarily, there is little opportunity for them to make available the facts behind the protest. The National press — 'The Times,' 'The Star,' and 'The Sun,' etc. serve only to reiterate the dogmatic and uncompromising statements made by the government in the House of Commons, the prisoners being portrayed as 'organised criminals' with 'criminally insane suicidal desires.' Such distortions, lies and myths can only continue in the absence of information on the realities of the prison situation and life in Northern Ireland — The intimidation of having armed troops and police on the streets, arbitrary arrest 'special' laws, non-jury courts, torture during interrogations.... silence cannot continue for much longer.



Comrades,

This letter comes to you from H Block five, Long Kesh Concentration Camp, North-East Ireland. I write with genuine pen to urge you to voice your solidarity with this prison struggle to end H Block; the continued atrocity.

We have made our stand, firmly entrenched in the uncompromising truth that we are not and never will allow ourselves to be called criminals.

I realise that for you it is difficult to understand this struggle not having a proper representation of the facts at your disposal, and as the controlled media wields savagely the dagger of Brutus in a blatant character assassination of the Irish liberation struggle. I appeal to you to seek out the real facts so much disguised and distorted by the counter insurgents within "the powers that be."

Our protest embarked in 1976. We refused to wear prison garb, demanding the return of our rights as political prisoners — political status. Violent brutality, treachery and hypocrisy have been the catalysts that dictated the escalation of our resistance erupting finally into the horrific and bloody climax of the two hunger strikes.

Four of our comrades now lie confined and murdered, but they are not the first victims of this fanatical conspiracy, four members of our solidarity committee were assassinated for daring to oppose the gauntlet reasoning of the British government in the political arena, many other assassinations failed, the most ruthless being that of H Block campaigner and marxist Miss Bernadette McAliskey.

The first hunger strike of October ended when our five demands were met in the flexible wording of a 30 page

document which would have allowed for an "internal settlement." This suited us, and with hunger striker Sean McKenna having only a few hours to live we all breathed a sigh of great relief, only in just a few weeks time to be dealt a vicious and sickening blow by a dirty and grotesquely experienced fighter — Treachery!! — in the form of backtracking and renegade, this is the atmosphere in which it was hammered home that we must hunger strike again, this time to the death with no eleventh hour designs to defeat us.

We took the initiative to end the no wash/no slop out protest; in a bid to encourage the "step by step" approach of what we had thought was an "internal settlement!"

Then it became apparent that the controllers of this prison with whom we were, through our spokesman Bobby Sands, negotiating with wanted one thing — absolute conformity. So in the face of this intransigence, under duress we took the only course open; Hunger strike.

Therefore the atrocity of H Block lies firmly on the shoulders of the British governments, all the deaths and injuries are from their hands, coupled with those who encourage their foul reasoning in this issue. British despotism.

By you expressing your solidarity now in the many forms and methods open, you can help to achieve for us our rights. By helping us to secure our five basic demands and saving our comrades lives, you can bring about an end to yet one more tale of injustice — Thankyou.

PRO H.5, L.K.R, P.O.W.

"My position is in contrast to that of other prisoners, I am a political prisoner." — Bobby sands R.I.P.

4th July, 1981.

Comrades,

I write in the hope of enlightening you and encouraging your solidarity to bring about an end to the corruption of criminalisation and the return of our rights as political prisoners.

The H Blocks were designed on a parallel with Stuttgart prison in West Germany, they are unique isolation units. The prison regime in Long Kesh where the H Blocks are located are corrupt and ruthlessly bigoted, the counter insurgency conspiracy of criminalisation was released early in 1976 with waves of petty crime by small time thugs recruited by British intelligence. While the building of the H Blocks continued half remission was introduced, cutting the number of Special Category prisoners down rapidly. Here is the first hint - why build more jail compartments when the jail population was now easily manageable after the introduction of half-remission? So, we have men back on the streets, the spates of robberies and burglaries continue. Next comes the screaming headlines - "Republican Godfathers" - "Chicago style raids of republican dens" etc. etc... The illustration begins to take shape. So too do the hideous interrogation centres raise their grotesque limbs and start with sickening haste to deliver victims back (via the Diplock non-jury courts and fabricated and grossly inadequate evidence) to the "new Maze," only this time as criminals and not special category prisoners. Many of the men released on half remission soon found themselves back in jail again, serving longer terms for alleged offences, similar in nature to their first conviction with one difference, due to expedience their sentences had in some cases doubled.

Resistance began early, the very first Republican prisoner sentenced after the removal of political status on March 1st 1976 went on the blanket - because he refused to be criminalised, and so the worlds greatest prison struggle began: reaching it's brutal climax when four men, Francis Hughes, Patsy O'Hara, Raymond McCreesh and Bobby Sands MP died on hunger strike - because they refused to be criminalised!!

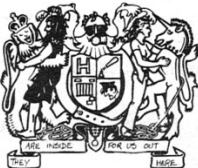
You must realise that there is no moral justification for the atrocity that has occurred due entirely to British government inflexibility, intransigence and sick fanaticism. There is no moral justification for the removal of political status. This talk of a school for guerilla warfare is all nonsense. We could train and educate ourselves in the use of war materials and develop politics under any circumstances, and the blanket has taught us a more important lesson - endurance, determination. Many of us have developed the hatred we lacked for our enemies, innocence has become imbittered. We educate ourselves on the blanket, it is not foolish to imagine that we will not do so under different circumstances.

THE FIRST HUNGER STRIKE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS ENDED
DEATHS WERE MET IN THE PARK AND WERE NO
COLUMBINE WERE WERE HAVE BEEN FOR AN
THIS STRIKE WAS NOT A HUNGER STRIKE SEAN HARRIS
WAS TO LIVE WE HAD BARRIERS & SILENCE OF COURSE
A FEW WERE TO BE DEATH A SILENCE AND SILENCE
A DUTY AND CREATING A STRIKE ENDED HUNGER
IN THE FUTURE BARRIERS AND REMAINS THIS
IN THE FUTURE BARRIERS AND REMAINS THIS
AGAIN THIS TIME IS THE DEATH WITH NO BARRIERS
DEATH US.

WE TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO END THE NO WASH/
HUNGER STRIKE IN A BID TO END THE STRIKE BY STRIKE
WHAT WE THOUGHT WAS AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT

THEN IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THE CONTROLLERS
IN THE HUNGER STRIKE WERE THE ONLY MEANS BY WHICH THE PRISONERS CAN COMMUNICATE
ON THEIR CONDITIONS.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT SAYS THOSE WHO OPPOSE THEM IN THE NORTH OF IRELAND ARE CRIMINALS

Yet there is

**SPECIAL
LEGISLATION
SPECIAL
HOLDING POWERS
SPECIAL
INTERROGATIONS
SPECIAL
JURYLESS COURTS
SPECIAL PRISONS**

SUPPORT THE IRISH HUNGER STRIKERS' CALL FOR SPECIAL STATUS— POLITICAL STATUS

ANARCHIST INFORMATION GROUP

The establishment says to our claim for free association that it would mean hundreds of men running about doing what they want, which is ridiculous because each segregated wing of a H Block holds a maximum of 50 men only!! and that's a fact. Understand now political status was not removed because of any moral reasoning, but simply as a means to alienate those engaged in the freedom struggle for the people. Any other excuse is mere fabrication.

Criminalisation has been stalled in its track, crippled by the solid resistance in these blocks, but the British government refuse to admit defeat, and while we continue to encourage a solution by our willingness to negotiate, the British government murder by intransigence continues to spew forth corpses.

The Brits must leave Ireland, the Irish people must be returned the right of self determination. You can, by expressing your solidarity, help Ireland to achieve these rights by joining the massive siegemound we have erected to collapse the continued atrocity of H Block: Thankyou.

"Freedom, equality and peace"
Venceremos,
PRO H.S.

For additional information on Ireland contact:

Gaining Ground

OUTTA CONTROL
ANARCHA-FEMINIST NEWS

The right to vote, or equal civil rights, may be good demands, but true emancipation begins neither at the polls, nor in courts. It begins in woman's soul. History tells us that every oppressed class gained true liberation from its masters through its own efforts. It is necessary that woman learn that lesson, that she realise that her freedom will reach as far as her power to achieve her freedom reaches.
EMMA GOLDMAN 1911

MINDING THE CHILDREN

The vast majority of working mothers have to make their own child-care arrangements privately, whether it is all day for the under-fives or after-school care for their older children. Many children are looked after by husbands, relatives and friends; a handful will be attending one of the five day-care centres in Northern Ireland and over 50% will be formally looked after by childminders.

Childminders are the largest single group of people working in the home and are, with one or two exceptions, women. Their job has little status within society and is very poorly paid. Most often their wages come out of the mother's wage (about 60% of average male wage) and childminders know that they cannot ask for more because it is not there to be given. As women, we are given virtually no recognition of the importance of child-rearing which is combined with all the domestic chores, and many men do not recognise it as a job at all. This is a view commonly held about childminders as well, some have even thought that childminding was reprehensible (a view not extended to the nannies of wealthy children); even though recent studies* have shown that many of them put lots of energy and effort into their work, teaching and enjoying the children, and they may spend up to half their wages on expenses such as food and drink, toys, equipment, wear and tear, etc..

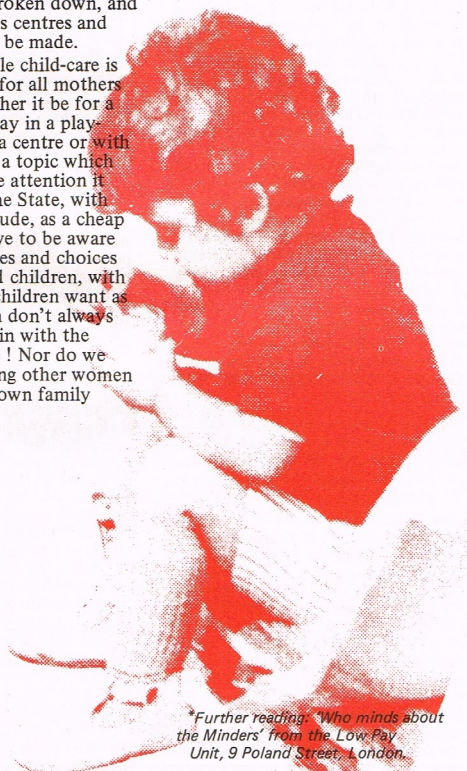
Since WW2, more and more women have been working outside the home and the increase is greatest amongst married women with young children - The depression is biting deep, and it is now a financial necessity to have two wages coming into the home each week to avoid poverty - there has been no corresponding increase in child-care facilities. The dilemma is that there are fewer and

fewer jobs around, and with female unemployment rising 3 times as fast as male unemployment, not only are working mothers being forced back into the home, but some are likely to become childminders themselves, just as the need for them is dwindling.

In some areas of the U.K., childminders have come together to set up local support groups where ideas, toys, equipment, play materials can be discussed and exchanged - isolation can be broken down, and links with children's centres and drop in centres can be made.

The need for flexible child-care is an essential choice for all mothers and children, whether it be for a couple of hours a day in a play-group or all day in a centre or with a childminder. It is a topic which has not received the attention it deserves; seen by the State, with its laissez faire attitude, as a cheap alternative. We have to be aware of all the possibilities and choices open to women and children, with emphasis on what children want as well. Older children don't always want to be thrown in with the babies, for example! Nor do we want to be exploiting other women whilst keeping our own family solvent!

The Women's Movement in the North has always recognised the importance of day care and after school care for children. Action has been confined to calling on the State for more money to provide state nurseries. One or two groups, like the crèche committee in the Lower Crescent Resource Centre have been trying to do it themselves but not particularly successfully. The latter have been trying for eighteen months and are now snookered over premises. A flexible, non sexist, libertarian day centre would be a vivid example and a positive step in the right direction.



*Further reading: 'Who minds about the Minders' from the Low Pay Unit, 9 Poland Street, London.

THE ROAD TO 1984

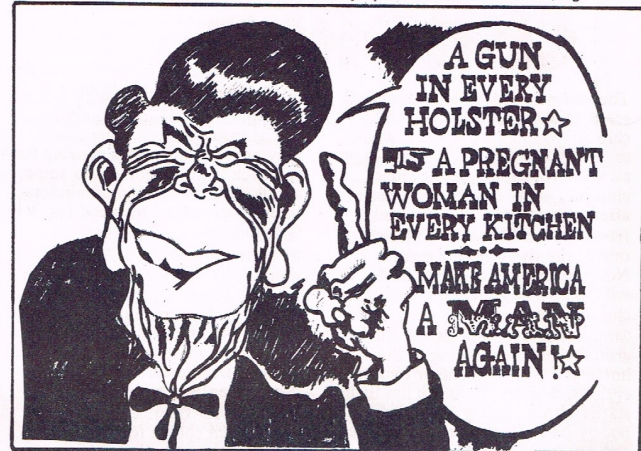
Only six months after Ronald Reagan assumed the office of President, feminists in the U.S.A. are finding that they are having to reassess their position and take a hard look at both their resources and their strategies for the future. By the end of the 1970s they might have been forgiven for taking a breathing space. American women had achieved a great deal in just over ten years in terms of education, legal and work opportunities. Vast amounts of funding had been used in feminist research in setting up alternative action programmes and in shelters for the victims of rape and battering. Feminists, although still fighting on issues, felt secure in what they had gained so far and some women were already complaining that the energy had left the American women's movement; too many women were now content to sit back and enjoy their gains.

Unfortunately though they were to see these gains as very short lived. Things were changing in the USA during the 70s, the most important being the prestige of the USA itself in the eyes of the world. Gradually through the decade the nation that was used to high standards of living, to denying the existence of poverty within its boundaries, to having the largest say in world affairs, found that despite all efforts, inflation was rampant, the dollar wasn't buying so much anymore, unemployment began to affect the white middle and working classes in a significant way whereas before only blacks and portoricans or mexicans had been affected. The third world wasn't doing what it was told anymore particularly the oil shieks who put prices and caused even more problems. Finally in Iran, Americans were being held to ransom and there was nothing the USA could do except feel the eyes of the world watching and laughing at them. This came as a tremendous shock to many Americans used to being regarded as the biggest and the best. In particular it upset many of the members of big business there who felt that their 'once great nation' was losing hold of all that it had achieved.

This mood began to pervade American politics and the searching question, why? left the stage open for those who could put forward a strong, plausible answer to the question....where have we gone wrong?

America has always been a society of huge divides and also one of a very strong conservative tradition. During the 1960s the ultra right wing out of favour in the period of civil rights reform and liberal thinking had managed to pour much of its energies into the Vietnam war effort but once the war ended they were left with tight organisations and groupings but really no where to go. It is at this point that the right wing begins to turn its attention to home and to American politics and starts to build up networks and alliances. By the end of the 70s the 'New Right' as it came to be known under the umbrella of the National Conservative

Political Action Committee (NCPAC) came to represent a wide coalition of structured lobbies at Congress, research foundations, fundamental religious bodies and single issue campaigns such as the Right to Life Committee, the Gun Lobby, the Daughters of the Revolution, the pro-nuclear lobby and many others. Their message was pure and simple—America had once been great and could easily be great again....how? By ending all wishy washy liberalism of the 60s and 70s, by ending 'government handouts' (ie welfare) to those who wouldn't work, by building up defence, by moving against groups who



were undermining the true American values of traditional morality and most importantly the family. In other words, to move against the poor, ethnic groups, feminists, homosexuals, people arguing against nuclear power...all these had helped or colluded in the downfall of America. Their message contained the potent myth that was swallowed whole by many white (often working class) Americans, and in cases, blacks as well who believed that the restoration of the old would bring about a change in their situation at this time.

Ronald Reagan, the one time actor, moved onto the stage to play the greatest part of his entire life shrewdly realising that the NCPAC had resources in terms of mailing lists, access to TV through the various TV preachers that 100 million Americans watch every week, and in time and energy which he could use, but, if they acted independently in his favour then their spending would not be counted as part of his campaign expenses and so he could not be accused of overspending on his government fixed allowance for the Presidential campaign. Undoubtedly, the NCPAC's help was one of the crucial factors in the campaign but it was help given with strings attached. Not only would Reagan be expected to broadly agree with their ideas he would also be expected to support the various single issue campaigns within the NCPAC grouping—and he was to fulfill these promises.

Reagan was elected by one of the smallest polls in American history. Almost 48% of

the voting population registered a protest both at the choice they were faced with on election day and signified their refusal to have anything to do with the sham by not voting. On a minority vote Reagan became President and immediately set about rewarding the NCPAC for all its help.

In January he announced one of the highest increases in the defence budget since the second world war—he also increased the amount of nuclear weapons the USA had in particular he restarted the research into the neutron bomb for the future. At the same time he announced major cuts in welfare and in government funding immediately affecting the poor, the sick the elderly and all other agencies, eg: consumer affairs, shelters for victims of battered women's centres, legal advice

by limiting severely if not shutting down entirely their work.

He publicly supported the gun lobby even though he was shot himself. Two days after his inauguration (which costed \$11 million) he invited anti-abortionists into his office to pledge support. At the moment he is attempting to cut federal funding for all sex education programs run in public schools. The backlash then is well underway and American feminists are beginning to reel at the losses of hard fought battles.

The abortion issue provides a good illustration of their situation. In 1973 feminists took a case to the Supreme Court over abortion. They claimed that the fact that abortion was illegal in some states of the USA was inherently unequal as it put women in an inferior position to men in terms of their freedom of action—it was therefore unconstitutional. The Supreme Court found in their favour and so all the states had to repeal anti-abortion legislation immediately. (The USA system of government is complicated. All government comes from the Constitution written in 1776. It is the law in the USA. Government is divided into three branches, the Congress—it legislates, the President—carries out legislation and foreign affairs, and the Supreme Court—guardians of the Constitution. Each of the 50 states also have their own governments who have the right to make laws for that state alone. To clarify the situation then, when the Congress legislates new laws, they do NOT automatically become part of the constitution.)

HERSELF ALONE

by Seamus Finnegan
directed by Julia Pascal

It was a strange experience, spending a week in London escaping the 12th celebrations, to go into an Islington pub at lunchtime and find oneself living through a play about the lives of three Belfast women, all born the same year as me, and educated by the same order of nuns as I was.

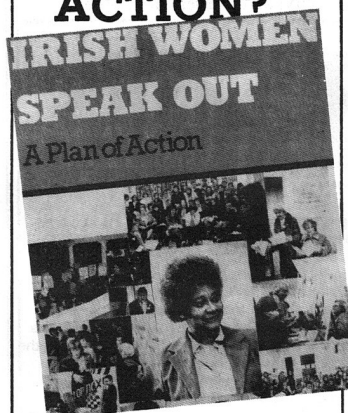
The play concerned one day in the life of the women. Bridget is happily living in London with a man she has a good relationship with; Patricia, a teacher, also living in London, is planning to return to Belfast to take part in 'the struggle' - while Fionnuala paces her cell in Armagh Jail, defiant and bitter. Through dialogue, monologue and appeals to the audience, their lives unfold. The bare stage, with only one chair as prop, became transformed into an arena where the claims of nationalism and the counter claims of feminism confronted each other. It wasn't always an equal match, due to the playwrights presentation of the situation, but it was thought provoking and it certainly raised many fundamental issues.

Patricia, frustrated by the indifference of the British, their liberalism a mask which barely disguises their chauvinism and contempt for other nationalities, cried out in anger that she could no longer live in the heart of the enemy. Not only was she, a member of an oppressed country, living in the imperialists' capital city, she also felt her psyche to be different, her whole manner of relating to people, of expressing herself. An analogy could be made (but wasn't) to the experience that many women have in relation to men. Both have been colonised/oppressed. But Bridget, while accepting much of what Patricia feels, argues that it is impossible to go back, to return to the dead weight of the Catholic Church, forced to conform to the image of Catholic womanhood, pressurised into marriage and regular church attendance. Her choice is her survival as a woman. The paradox is that as an Irish, ex catholic woman, she can live more freely in London than she could in Belfast. In the meantime, Fionnuala serves her sentence in Armagh, on lock up as part of the penalty for protesting her right to be treated as a political prisoner. As one would expect she is uncompromising in her Republicanism. The audience is made to feel uncomfortably aware of the reality of ghetto life, of the material reasons why someone would choose to devote their life to armed warfare against the British state. Finn-

gan, a Belfast man, uses the character of Fionnuala to bludgeon his (obviously liberal/left) English audience into a recognition of their guilt—because they are members of the oppressing race. Its a nationalistic diatribe and it angered me. It appeared to say that international solidarity was a myth, and that racial differences were overwhelming. At one point Fionnuala lashes out against English feminists for not expressing support for her, declaring that 'my sisters are the men in Long Kesh', because they were united in military struggle while feminists were concerned with the unimportant question of the universality of women's oppression.

I had the feeling that if the play was performed in a more political setting—for example, at a woman's conference, or at a meeting on Ireland—it would have provoked an angry response from people who would (and quite rightly) have refused to be guilt tripped in this heavy handed way. Perhaps Finnegan chooses his prey carefully? But despite everything, the play has some important things to say, and we could all benefit from discussing its content. However it would be a brave person who would put it on a venue where we could see it!

PLAN OF ACTION?



Produced by the Council for the Status of Women. Co-op Books, Price £1.20.

Anyone interested in discovering what are the main problems facing women in Ireland today can find most of them voiced in this book, which is a report of the Women's Forum held in Dublin in November 1980. The two day conference was attended by over 1000 women who discussed issues ranging over health, education, violence against women, employment, lesbianism, women in rural areas and women in conflict situations.

The book attempts to summarise both the factual information presented by speakers, together with the comments and views aired in the workshops - not an easy task as anyone who has attended a large conference will realise. It is the range of views that I felt to be one of the book's strongest points, for they show that increasing numbers of Irish women, not just feminists, are becoming more aware of the problems facing them, and more vocal about what is needed in terms of legislative, social and economic change.

This conference was planned as a follow-up in Ireland to the United Nations Conference on Women, held in Copenhagen in 1980. The Copenhagen Conference recommended various measures for all governments to take to eliminate the discrimination and inequality that take place within the family, and at national, local and family level by implementing a programme for change. In theory, this progress is then monitored at international level, as all governments are required to produce reports to the U.N. The Irish Womens Conference received government funding, and, in the closing address, the then Minister for State, Department of Labour expressed on behalf of the government, his keen interest in receiving the National Plan of Action from the Conference. I wonder how he'll react to the following recommendations that arose from the Workshops:-

'An end to the Catholic Church's control over education in Ireland'

or

'A national programme of education covering sexuality in general and lesbianism in particular, to take place in schools, community and health centres ...'

or

'Encourage and facilitate the establishment, particularly in local communities, of plans for the systematic development of child-care services and facilities.'

Each Workshop produced lists of radical, far-reaching demands calling for divorce legislation, sex education in schools, alternatives to prison, repeal of the Family Planning Act and more.

The Problem is that a set of demands don't constitute a plan of action, however 'correct' they may be. There was no discussion on how women can work for the changes in society that they want. While the book is interesting, because it is Irish women speaking out, it doesn't deserve the sub-title, a Plan of Action..

YOUNG PEOPLE - WRITE ON !

Your poems, stories and drawings wanted for a new book of your work to be published later this year. Send things of any length and any subject, with your name, age and address to: Young People Writing, 7 Winetavern St., Belfast BT1. Tel: 25426 (day)

THREE MONTH STRIKE AT E.B.S.

One hundred and six workers, members of ASTMS, have been on strike since April 29th at the Educational Building Society... Nineteen branch offices in Dublin, one in Cork and the head office are included. The majority of the striking workers are youngwomen on strike for the first time. The pickets every day are almost 100% women. It is a long and bitter dispute and still looks a long way from victory for the workers. They are seeking parity with the Irish Civil Service Building Society which which would mean an average increase of £10.84 per week.

The EBS are refusing to concede the claim which would cost them in the region of £92,000 per year. In the 12 months up to December 1980 their profits went up to 14.7% to £2.5m, their assets stand at £215.6m and they are ranked at the

the 12th biggest financial institution in the country. So who believes that they can't afford to pay? They thought nothing of spending £18,500 on potted plants for the head office or of giving a gift of £2000 to the Garda Boat Club.

The EBS are attempting to maintain their usual service by using non-union staff, many of whom were recently given promotion in return for staying out of the Union. They are also trying to pressurise strikers back to work — in Cork the striking branch manager is being threatened with foreclosure of his mortgage.

So far there has been little movement in the dispute even though the workers have been out for over 3 months now. Recent talks with management produced nothing acceptable to the workers. Two conciliation conferences have resulted in no more than an offer of parity with the Irish Permanent which would mean virtually no extra money, but would be tied to an increase of four hours on the working week.

The strikers had a very successful march through Dublin about a month ago, to highlight the fact that they were still out on strike. Over 200 people took part in the lunch-time march through the city, and workers from other



I think, if women don't like the way we run things here, they can go back where they came from. That's what I think.

building societies joined the march in solidarity. In June a very good social was held for the strikers in a Dublin pub and was supported by trade union activists, H-Block activists, anarchists and socialists.. It raised £60 for the strike fund, but apart from that it gave the strikers a boost to know how many people supported them.

The strikers are appealing to other trade unionists and members of the public for support. Collections have been organised in other building societies, but with the strike dragging on so long many of the workers are suffering financial problems. They ask people not to cross their picket lines and that mortgage repayments be held back until the strike is settled. They also want postal workers to refuse to deliver mail to the E.B.S., and some progress has been made on that within the post office.

Meanwhile, however, the strike goes on, and there is no sign of the management coming to a decent settlement. One of the strikers said 'They seem intent on beating us. We therefore need lots more solidarity and help from other trade unionists in order to win. No-one of us wants to be walking up and down here for months. We need to start collections everywhere we can and involve members from other unions with ideas on how we can win.'

The Strike Committee can be contacted through Mary Devine, c/o E.B.S. Strike Committee, A.S.T.M.S., 38 Lower Leeson St., Dublin 2.



JustBooks 7 Winetavern Street, Belfast 1

JUST BOOKS.....an alternative bookshop run collectively by anarchists. Its aim is to provide radical literature in Ireland and beyond, literature that is censored by most of the straight bookshops whose over-riding concern is profit. This booklist is one of a series due to appear periodically, most non-establishment topics of interest to be covered. Suggestions on additions or general advice is welcomed.

We can also order specific titles you may want, though those deemed 'ideologically unsound' will most likely be out of print. Unfortunately we need finances to survive and this explains the rather precise nature of the postal rates for sending books, and the need for money with your order. In the case of prisoners, books are either free, or half price paid for by their friends on the outside. Any prisoner who contacts us is welcome to this service.

Much thanx....Just Books Collective.

ANARCHIST PAPERS AND MAGAZINES

FREEDOM...fortnightly, 25p. Regular, 100 years old.
Anarchist Worker...occasional...20p....Dublin anarchist worker paper.
Fifth Estate...occasional...30p....American, graphically inspiring.
Bayou la Rose...30p....occasional...American, plenty on ecology.
Xtra...30p....occasional...English, and as they say, 'paper for the armchair terrorist'.
Open Road...45p....Ambitious Canadian paper with an internationalist outlook.
Anarchy...30p....very occasional...sometimes stimulating.
Peace News...25p...fortnightly...sympathetic to anarchism, plenty on anti-nuclear activities.
Solidarity...25p...bi-monthly...abstract anarchic theoretical journal.
Gaining Ground...5p in Ireland, elsewhere 10p...monthly...Belfast anarcho-feminist paper, always stimulating, topical, well laid-out and original.
Outta Control...5p in Ireland, elsewhere 10p...monthly...news and views of the Belfast Anarchist Collective...like Gaining Ground, it innovates rather than follows.

ution but are measured against the constitution by the Supreme Court who decide whether the new law is constitutional or not. But the Supreme Court cannot bring an action against itself an individual or group must do that. Finally there is provision within the constitution to bring about amendments which are added on—this is done when two thirds of the Congress vote in favour and ¾ of all of the 50 states vote likewise—as this is quite a tall order it is not surprising that only 26 amendments have been added in 200 years!)

To get back then to the abortion issue, pro-choice groups are now afraid that anti-abortionists will try, given their huge majorities in Congress, and in all the State legislatures, and their Presidential support to bring about a Right to Life amendment to the Constitution which will effectively make abortion illegal once again by declaring the fetus to be a human person and immediately stop all doctors from performing abortions. It may also affect those contraceptives deemed to be abortifacient in their action, eg: the IUD and certain brands of Pill. What worries the pro-choice groups most is the fact that they believe the anti-abortionists will succeed!

So from a position of security given the 1973 Supreme Court decision feminists in the USA are once again faced with a hard struggle to retain their control over their own bodies. Many feminists are now seeing that they cannot depend on legal reasoning or the courts nor does the fact that the majority of Americans support a woman's right to choose offer any protection. In electoral terms the moral majority is in power and means to change things to their liking. Once won, rights are never immutable, they can always be taken away. The backlash in the USA has come down heavily on the women's movement, it is being cited as the chief cause in the breakdown of the family and home life seen as the basic corner stone of a strong America. The new witch hunt has begun.

What then are the feminists doing? Having let organisations fall away, and support and energy reach an all time low—American feminists are starting to regroup again to build up resources and money and energy all of which the opposition has in abundance. It is a salutary lesson for all feminists that the fight never ends in this type of society that one gain doesn't entirely defeat the enemy and that while we rest on our laurels, they are still organising and planning for the future.

Already in the USA people are realising what Reagan represents...his plans to make America great means their hardship, their poverty while business never had it so good. But they also know that they are stuck with him for a while yet. Feminists in the USA are on the march again...who knows what will happen by 1984!

The Human Life Bill has already passed the committee stage in the US senate. It denies all abortions and IUDs and progestogen pills are defined as murder. Women in America are calling for international solidarity. Letters protesting at the Human Life Bill, Human Life Amendment, withdrawal of Medicaid for abortions and to all restrictive legislation to be sent to The Hon Strom Thurmond, Chairman and Members of the Senate Judiciary committee, Room 2226 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510, US, and to Reagan. He supports the bill—use strong language.

HEALTH NEWS

CONTRACEPTION

When worries over the safety of the pill as a contraceptive became widespread some years ago—one of the chief concerns of women was the possibility of blood clots. The building up of blood clots in women using the Pill did not seem to be because these women had a tendency to build up more clots than other women—rather women who were susceptible seemed to be unable to break up the clumps of red blood cells as they formed. (a normal occurrence in healthy people).

Recent investigations of this problem indicate that clot prone women seem to have low levels of protein in their blood which is released when a clot forms and is the body's natural defence mechanism against such attack. Further investigations revealed that women who take regular exercise have higher levels of protein than less active women by as much as 50% depending on the amount of exercise undertaken. Researchers are now suggesting that women who use the pill should take some form of regular exercise and so minimise the risk of blood clotting.

Many women gave up the pill after the scare stories and there was according to FPA figures a large switch in contraceptive methods particularly to those thought to be safe with minimal if any side effects. Consequently many women turned to spermicides for protection and the drug companies moved quickly into this lucrative market the number of foams, jellies creams and suppositories available, multiplying over the last few years. All these products contain sperm killing agents and the advertising surrounding them was often misleading because many manufacturers indicated that these products could be used on their own—while the FPA has recommended their use ONLY in conjunction with a sheath or diaphragm.

Apart from this though, these contraceptives have always enjoyed a good reputation in terms of health safety, but if the tentative findings of a recent report are verified by more research, then this reputation may end. Research indicates that women who get pregnant while using this form of contraceptive (a fairly significant number) may be more likely to

have children with birth defects. In the research program women who got pregnant while using spermicides around the time of conception had babies who suffered from TWICE as many severe birth defects as did the infants of non-users. It is thought that sperm which survive the onslaught of spermicide in the vagina and later become implanted in the uterus stand a good chance of being damaged in the process.

At the moment the research findings can only be regarded as tentative and cannot prove a conclusive link between spermicides and defects in babies but the researchers do suggest that women wishing to become pregnant should give up spermicides at least two months before doing so, and stop using them immediately they suspect that they may be pregnant.

SPONGES

In America the USA Food and Drug Administration wants to stop the sale of sea sponges which in recent years have been used by women fed up with paying high prices for tampons, as substitutes for the tampons. The sponges can be inserted into the vagina and collect menstrual blood there—although they are expensive they can be used over and over again and so work out much cheaper than commercially produced tampons which yield a very high profit rate for their producers. Sponges have also been widely favoured since the discovery of Toxic Shock Syndrome which was linked with the use of tampons particularly those which were not 100% cotton.

But the FDA are arguing that although the sponges may be totally natural they nonetheless contain quantities of sand which is impossible to remove, they are also likely to be contaminated with pollutants because they come from the sea and no sea is without pollution. Lastly because of their organic nature they provide a good basis for germs to grow and are difficult to keep in a sterile condition between periods—all of which can lead to irritation of the vaginal walls and in severe cases to infection of the area. The FDA calls sponges 'experimental medical devices' whose safety has yet to be proved.

CHOP CRAWLEY

The Central Library is one of the few places in down town Belfast that actually welcomes children. There they had their own space, plenty of reasonably good books and inspiration. It was, of course, very much under the control of the women workers, but a far move all the same from the authoritarian nature of most primary schools.

Now we hear that this autonomous space is to be done away with, the 'kids section' shunted into the back of the adult section where quiet and boredom is the highlight of the day. The workers are angry....the person responsible for the chop is the aptly named Mr.Crawley...in all his wisdom he has decided to replace the kids space with a business reference section. The workers in

the different departments are isolated. There is no solidarity to tell Mr.Crawl to fuck off. Crawl does what he wants and has the reputation in the professional library circles as having more power than sense. Crawl is employed by the Education and Library Board who know of many of his antics but are content to let him continue in charge. Crawl has been known to physically threaten some of his staff...the arch patriarch. Twelve years ago library staff went on strike basically because of him. Crawl saw to it that those involved in the strike got demoted and sent out somewhere else. The three who supported him got promoted and remain his assistants always at his beck and call.

The workers have already had a half day strike over the issue....Mr.Crawl's plush office is just up the stairs. Are there 50 kids who would like to spend the afternoon there?



Recent riots in many parts of London and other English cities are leading some people to draw parallels between the developing situation there and that of rioting in Northern Ireland. I will, for the purpose of this article, be using Brixton as an example of the situation in England; this being the area I feel most qualified to write about, as I have been involved in the work of a Bookshop there.

Riots in Brixton have had, exclusively, a spontaneous beginning, usually as a result of a particular incident involving over policing on the streets, or following examples of police harassment. There is no doubt that the massive force of police deployed in Brixton (ostensibly to try to cope with a soaring crime rate), is a source of great anger and frustration within the community there. Not only are the sheer numbers seen as an unnecessary harassment, but also the methods of questioning and intimidation have led some people to describe the area as one of occupation by a force that is neither trusted or wanted. The riots are certainly not racial in nature, nor are they in any way engineered by outside tacticians, as some media commentators would have their public believe. If one was pushed to describe the nature of the riots, assuming that one could narrow it down any way, the nearest one could come to would be to say that they are, broadly, anti-authoritarian. People, in clashes, with the police, are saying that they want control of their own streets and are gaining the confidence generally to rebel against all which oppresses them. All places or people seen as authoritarian can be the subject of attacks in the rebellion that follows. Looting has been seen partly as an attack on consumerist values and as an attempt to get essential goods which many people cannot afford. Unemployment, bad housing, creaking social services and racial discrimination, provide an under tow of discontent, but no single factor can be called the root cause of rebellion.

Police tactics in riots can be seen to have developed quite quickly and a familiar pattern of isolation dispersal and ultimate containment has followed, plus familiar series of raids and arrests in attempts to continue the process of intimidation and

control. Various shades of political organisations (not involved in the riots nor instigators of them) have sought to capitalise on the situation after the event, but have in the main been met with the scorn that they deserve. Countless media persons and politicians have stalked the streets looking for good copy and each way the people lose out and their voice goes largely misunderstood or ignored, or re-interpreted to serve various vested interests.

In the aftermath of riots, when all areas are tense — seemingly waiting retribution of various sorts, or seeking to make something out of new found confidence—police raids and arrests have created unease and unrest leading to anti social acts of mugging and threats between various distinct sections of the community. In some cases, minority groups feel more vulnerable and unless steps are taken quickly to improve communication and understanding the situation can only get worse.

From this brief outline, we can begin to draw certain parallels between recent events in England and some in Northern Ireland. Similar patterns of spontaneous rioting against an occupying force emerge. Details of weapons used—bricks, petrol bombs, sticks, barricades, make twin lists. However, it should be noted that the enemy in Northern Ireland is a much more directly identifiable one, and its powers far greater, its weaponry more sophisticated its tactics seasoned with practice. Indeed, the campaign of resistance to the enemy in Northern Ireland is fought consistently on many fronts, as it has to be, and riots are often an unco-ordinated expression of frustration and anger rather than concerted attacks by blacks on whites in Brixton, where one group is singled out for attention if it appears to be more privileged or part of the system of oppression. Unequal opportunities in employment exist in both England and Northern Ireland and the growing numbers of attacks

England and Northern Ireland as do factors of deprivation in housing and low incomes. The Irish, at war against what is regarded as a foreign occupation, have a long tradition of the use of violence to ensure that their voice is heard. Violence, and often only violence, has been effective in achieving progress. Violence is a reflection of the failure of politicians and all those who seek to control our lives. Brixton, Belfast, Bristol, Toxteth, have all shown the determination of some to rebel against and to resist a common enemy. No one can predict what the likely outcome of general rebellion would be, but it is unlikely that people having tasted first progress and gained confidence on their streets will rest content to sit in apathy from now on and

PARALLELS

This article continues the discussion on the recent rioting in England. Last month's article was written collectively with an Irish feminist who had lived in Liverpool until recently. The following has been written by a London anarchist on the rioting in Brixton.

not take long term decisions for their own lives.

Rioting is a spectacle—it draws attention to a minority of a community who exhibit anger, courage and determination in the face of crushing odds. Concentration on the spectacle in the streets, however, ignores the existence of those whose streets are being defended and who feel powerless and without a voice behind closed doors, largely forgotten, and for whom the prospect of taking on, unarmed, an armed police force, is frightening. Pictures of riots show largely young and male participants. Those people on the fringes of disturbances and who take advantages of the disorder to loot shops and other premises, can be seen as coming from wider sections of the community, and feature the young and old, male and female, black and white. There are signs, on both sides of the sea, that people are moved to take what they need instead of waiting for or allowing an authority to make decisions for them. Anarchists certainly have a great contribution to make in the creation of a new life, once demands are fulfilled and once freedom from occupation is ensured.

UNITY MEETING

The August Unity Meeting took place on the 1st in the Women's Centre. The first part of the discussion centred mainly round the current issue of the women's newsletter, Women-rite. Was the newsletter for women only? should it be on sale to the public? should articles be published in other newspapers such as the abortion article in Scope, without the knowledge of the women's movement or reference to the fact that it had first been published in the newsletter? Women's groups outside Belfast who were present at the meeting had not received any copies of the newsletter. Obviously these are teasing problems, magnified by the fact that the newsletter was out of date—reference was made to the Rape Crisis group on this point—and had not been a true collective effort. It was decided to send out the remaining copies of it to women and groups on the mailing list and anybody wanting a copy should contact the women's centre in the next week. The subject will be an ongoing discussion but one positive point made was that the discussions that took place at the unity meeting could be further elaborated and debated in the newsletter, for women only, and that articles could be made public every so often—say every six months.

The book on Irish women was discussed and articles invited for consideration. The idea for a woman's music workshop was mooted and women from the Rathcoole group suggested a more social atmosphere for women to get together—a party is being arranged for September. The last part of the discussion was on the role of the centre. For further details of the above and of the lesbian feminist group contact 16-18 Donegall Street. Tel 43363



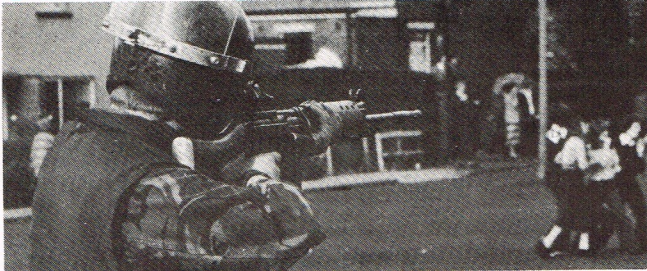
Outta Control

News & Views of the
Belfast Anarchist Collective

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW
MORE ABOUT THE BAC...
WRITE: BAC, C/O
7 MINSTER ST.,
BELFAST.

OUTTA CONTROL... of the state, bosses, patriarchy, schooling, churches... As Anarchists we oppose the authority and exploitation of this society, and advocate one of free association and self-management. This paper comes out every four weeks and we welcome contributions, criticisms etc.

A SEA OF TROUBLES



Britain's role in Northern Ireland, both on the streets and in terms of legislative measures, is clearly repressive and designed to keep in check a rebellious section of the population which calls for the granting of the Five Demands of the Prisoners, which also to some extent calls for 'Brits Out', and which seeks to take control of, and responsibility for, its own future.

The British government will not, it says, negotiate with the prisoners on the Five Demands until the hunger strike ceases, and continues its policy of criminalisation and the labelling of resistance to the British presence as 'terrorist', 'criminal' and as a problem of law and order. To admit that the prisoners are 'political' would mean that they would have to admit that the conflict is a political one and that they would have to re-evaluate their policy and their role here.

The granting of any concessions towards the demands of a nationalist and republican population also seems to represent a loss of 'face' or political credibility, and, like all governments, they wish to present an image, world-wide, of a firm and powerful consensus that does not admit mistakes nor bow under pressure to a challenge to its rule.

On the question of the prison protests, the hunger strike and the Five Demands, the British government realises the implication of reforms for all other prisons in Britain. Also, they wish to maintain their policy of not negotiating under pressure from 'terrorists' and try to limit the intentions of the Demands to ones of seeking better conditions - this makes it easy to claim that some conditions are among the best in Europe. It is clear that the prisoners' demands for 'rights' and not 'privileges' go towards the undermining of the basis of prisons which claims to 'rehabilitate'. The prisoners have recently

expressed a view that speaks for all imprisoned people:-

'They want to control our words, deeds and thoughts on a twenty-four hour basis, with the objective of turning out systemised, dispirited and broken men whose only alternative to conforming is many more years of isolation, brutality and degradation.'

Britain wishes to break the spirit of any resistance to its power, and by force of arms seeks to control the streets and to crush any signs of support for resistance. Any government will, of course, seek to protect the interests of the establishment, but the deaths of the hunger strikers and massive public support for their protest and demands have drawn attention to the political nature of the conflict and have done much to expose the lengths to which Britain will go to retain its supremacy.

It is being increasingly seen that the rebellious section of the population does not have the resources to confront the troops, RUC and UDR. When the protesting population begins to pose any kind of threat to the 'normalisation' policy, then it is all too easily contained and isolated by force of arms or by the threats of torture and imprisonment. Riots provide a justification (as if one were being sought) for the systematic murder, intimidation and harassment of Catholics and republicans. Riots and petrol bombings accompany the announcements of the deaths of hunger strikers and few attempts by the H-Block/Armagh Committees seem to be made to organise or to redirect that in a way which will ensure the mobilisation of the community, i.e. school strikes and full day stoppages of commercial and routine social life.

The military resistance to the British presence continues a steady but unchanging campaign. Military and commercial

Continued on back page . . .

INSIDE

There have been two more deaths in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh - Tom McElwee, from Bellaghy, and Micky Devine from Derry. Their funerals became massive demonstrations of support for the prisoners, with over 10,000 on each occasion. To date, 10 prisoners have now died. Seven more prisoners have replaced them, with the number of days spent on hunger strike on Sept. 12th as follows:-

Liam McCloskey 41
Pat Sheehan 34
Jackie McMullan 27
Bernard Fox 20
Gerry Carville 13
John Pickering 6.

PLASTIC DEATH

In the past ten days, four children have been injured in plastic bullet attacks by the British Army and the RUC.

The most recent victim is twelve years old Paul Corr from the Beechmount area. On Friday night he was hit in the face by a plastic bullet as he cycled past a two-vehicle army patrol. Paul's face has been ripped open; his brother has said that Paul has 'a huge hole in his face with his nose hanging off'.

Eye-witnesses have repudiated British Army claims that the patrol had come under attack from youths throwing stones and using catapults. Local people say that at the time Paul was injured the area was quiet except for a few children, all under ten years of age, who had been throwing stones earlier. The people of Beechmount have decided to hold a mass street demonstration to protest over the deaths and injuries caused by plastic bullets.

Once again, the security forces have demonstrated the lengths they are prepared to go to in order to terrorise people off the streets - even to the extent of killing and maiming children. Seven people have died since April this year, after being hit by plastic bullets - three were under sixteen. Carol Ann Kelly, aged 12 years and Mrs. Nora McCabe were killed when there was no disturbance whatsoever. Julie Livingstone, aged 14, died after being hit with a plastic bullet when British soldiers attacked a crowd of women who were blowing whistles and banging bin-lids to protest over the death of hunger-striker Francis Hughes.

On the 3rd and 4th of August, the Association for Legal Justice held a tribunal on the use of plastic bullets. The International panel condemned the indiscriminate use of the bullets against people not involved in riots, and the official tolerance of abuses of the weapon. The tribunal condemned the plastic bullet as a lethal weapon and called for a ban on its use in Northern Ireland. They also called for an inquiry into the deaths and serious injuries occurring from the use of the bullets.

Banning plastic bullets in Northern Ireland would prevent some of the injuries and death, but unless the users of these weapons, the sectarian 'security forces' are banned also, the attacks will merely take a different form.

Food that we eat is made up of various substances, not all of which are nutrients. Nutrients are substances that provide energy; enable living material to be built up and broken down; and provide elements to promote growth and healing. As well as nutrients, food contains fibre and toxins. There are five main categories of nutrients:protein, carbohydrates, fats, minerals and vitamins.

Humanity is a 'first-hand feeder', i.e. feeding on plant products directly, with teeth, digestive system and other characteristics similar to those of frugivorous apes. At some period in history (probably due to an environmental crisis) humanity took to flesh eating.

Nowadays, most people eat whatever is to hand - mostly out of habit, family tradition, social conventions, laziness, thoughtlessness and convenience. Humanity, in general, lives with the illusion that it is necessary to healthy survival to consume quantities of meat, fish and other products (such as eggs, cheese and milk). This illusion results not only in the mass oppression and slaughter of animal life - it is also the cause of much ill-health, obesity and wasteful land use.

Too many people believe that it is necessary to eat a mixture of meat, vegetables fruit and other foods in order to achieve a 'balanced diet'. Not only can this practice prove expensive to maintain, it should be pointed out that this kind of feeding is, more often than not, a question of *taste* and *habit* rather than one based on sound nutritional advice.

All essential nutrients can be obtained from plant sources. As long as any eating habits do not lack, significantly, any essential nutrient, then a diet which consists entirely of plant products (i.e. a *vegan*, or complete vegetarian diet) is one that is adequate, cheap and healthy and is one which does not involve a continuing exploitation and mass oppression of animal life.



Sources of Essential Nutrients

Proteins: nuts, whole cereals, soya and other beans and peas, greens, also plant-milks and textured vegetable protein (i.e. processed soya).

Sugars and Starches: cereals, bread, cake, biscuits, fruit, dried fruit, vegetables.

Fats: nuts and other seeds, 'TOMOR' margarine, nut butters and creams, plantmilks.

Vitamins:

Vitamin A - carrots, tomatoes, dark greens, margarines.

Vitamin B - whole cereals, pulses, nuts & yeast extracts.

Vitamin B12 - is added to yeast extracts such as 'Tastex', 'Barmene', some plant-milks, also in Lane's vegan tablets.

Vitamin C - fruits and greens (especially fresh and raw).

Vitamin D - sunlight, vegan margarines, and plantmilks.

Vitamin E - whole cereals and pulses, vegetable oils (especially sunflower).

Minerals:

Calcium - seeds, nuts, whole cereals, bean beans, peas, greens, dried fruit. Also mol-

asses and dark treacle.

Iron - greens, dried fruit, nuts, whole cereals, Also molasses and dark treacle.

Fibre: fibrous parts of whole cereals, fruit and vegetables - essential for healthy functioning of the body. Animal products do NOT supply these.

People are rightly concerned about the human population crisis, with ever-increasing numbers putting a critical strain on the earth's resources and space. What is often overlooked is that there is *another population explosion* - that of the animals which are systematically bred to feed human beings. This *other* explosion puts an even greater strain on the environment, and one that is completely unnecessary - as humanity can get all food much more economically from plants.

'What's Cooking?' is an excellent, vegan, cookery book which contains over 300 marvellous recipes, plus pages of simple nutritional advice and hints on preparing tasty, nourishing, economical meals. It provides the answer to the high costs of meat and other animal products. It costs £3 plus 50p postage and packing from: The Vegan Society, 47 Highlands Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, England. A good investment in many ways than one.

There is just concern for the many thousands of animals kept in research establishments and which are experimented on (many without anaesthetic) in the names of scientific progress, medicine and biological warfare. It is about time that we, as anarchists, and as people who are seeking to determine their own lives, to accord that freedom to animal life, to stop the mass exploitation and butchery of animals for food when there are perfectly adequate alternatives.

Think about what you are eating NOW, join the vegan revolution, let us free our world of all tyranny and not just that which touches human life. That way, we give the earth a better chance of a free and truly libertarian future.

LETTERS

NEWS FROM YORKSHIRE

A comrade writes:-

We have recently set up a community centre in Keighley, which is run on an anarchist basis and in which we can put our ideas forward to people. We have tried to counter the state's media hunger-strike coverage by sticking up posters and handing out leaflets etc., with some degree of success.

We also have access to video equipment and have shown videos made by other groups.

We have also laid flowers, barbed wire and plaques after the deaths of each of the hunger-strikers and have handed out leaflets to accompany our action.

MEANWHILE IN SOUTH WALES

Billy McDermott writes:-

On the question of Ireland and the relationship with the people in Wales, many people draw similarities and are therefore within the Plaid Cymru and Welsh Republican Socialist Movement.

Quite a few people, at least in Swansea, in the WRSF fold claim to be anarchists. They have a fairly good Troops Out of Ireland stand.

Unlike the SWP, they do not use Ireland as just another issue to make political capital out of.

This does not mean anarchists don't take a stand against nationalism and patriotism.

The anarchists in the Swansea area are involved or getting involved in different struggles, but the position at the moment is organising as in DAM and consciousness-raising.

We are also attempting to set up a Swansea Community Media Group, known as Black Eye Video.

Anyway, anarchists, keep on struggling - the chains are breaking.



The Autonomy Centre in London's Wapping Wall has just opened. One of their first activities was a debate on 'Nationalism in Ireland is a Revolutionary Force'. We hope to publish the papers presented in our next issue.

Birmingham too, will soon have its anarchist club. The hope is to encourage the growth of a network of clubs around the country which would put the libertarian movement on a firm bedrock, cutting across the sectarian divide of paper organisations, and marking a return to the traditional libertarian idea of a decentralised club movement, based firmly in the local community. Address to be found!

If you're across the water then contact -

AUTONOMY CENTRE
01 Warehouse,
Metropolitan Wharf,
Wapping Wall, LONDON E1 4LG.

A comrade writes from Hull:-

'Did you read Anarchy No 32? Quite an improvement I think (well, the first bit anyway). A lot of 'Anarchists' use dogma to pass the buck on Ireland. In my experience those people who bring out theoretical justifications for not supporting the Irish working class in struggle are playing an old game - they're after an excuse for inactivity. They know they should be doing something, but they'll find one hundred and one ways of avoiding it.

For example, if there's anti-militarist or prisoner support work to be done, and someone raises the Ireland angle, the 'wets' will jump up protesting 'but I want the army out everywhere', or 'all prisoners are political' These two positions are dead right, and as anarchists we must never lose sight of them, and proclaim them at the top of our voices; but I get annoyed when the rhetoric is used to bury heads in sand. I've never seen the people who raise these 'purist' objections go off and do anything, never seen them confront militarism really in England, or help English prisoners. If the positions were reversed, with an Irish army of occupation in England, the English revolutionaries would be screaming for support from their Irish counterparts. So, where's solidarity now?

IF YOU ARE UNEMPLOYED and have done some art work in your spare time, please contact Ken on Belfast 768402 between 6.30 and 7.30 Tues, Thurs, Fri, as he is interested in holding an Exhibition of unemployed people's work.

ANYONE interested in helping in a Writers' Co-op
- contact Johnny c/o Just Books, Tel: 22426.
I thought BAC was a racing bike, until I discovered
OUTTA CONTROL. Details: 'Just Books'.

YOUR work. Send in all your poems, stories,
drawings, and other creative writing.
Just Books, 7 Widdow's Street, Belfast.
See YOUR work in print!

REMINDER!! Young Budding Writers of Belfast
& Young People Writing a new book to be
published later this year containing nothing but

We are expected to remain silent whilst Anarchy and Chaos become
a way of life. The situation is worsened by the fact that... we
have no control over any of our affairs.

The Ulster Loyalist Democratic Party

Rathfriland

The notorious rip-off artist Pat Hughes worms his way deeper into the world mining economy. His company - Northgate - has just recently taken over PATINO; a big multi-national, famed for its abuse of Bolivian tin miners. The deal cost £67m.

and much of the money came from the profits made at the Tynagh mine in Galway. Northgate employed people to rip out ore from Galway for 15 years, making £30m. profits in the process. They hinted that this money would be put back into an Irish venture....as it has turned out, this was a clever rumour in order to get the I.T.G.W.U. to persuade its members to accept redundancy money gracefully.

But the 'Irish venture', not surprisingly, did not materialise. Instead, they buy PATINO and are now involved in gold, zinc, and silver mining in Quebec.

Through this deal, Northgate increase their stake in other companies busily exploring for URANIUM in Ireland. Alongside their uranium prospecting interests in Donegal and the Mourmes, Northgate also get a stake in Brascan, a North American company who own half of Noranda. Noranda control TARA, operator of a zinc mine in Navan, as well as the holders of uranium prospecting rights in Donegal.

Big money, big business... it's time Northgate got a big shock!

..... to Bolivia



Mystery of the H-block protest

Supporters of violence moved in on Keighley Cenotaph on Monday.

The flowers for Keighley's unopposed victims were shown aside by IRA propaganda.

Protesters backing dead socialist hunger strikers — and blaming Britain for their 'murder' — appeared on the memorial.

A harped wire letter II took pride of place — instead of the simple wreath of remembrance. No organisation has yet claimed responsibility for the demonstration — but many of the propaganda posters carried the Anarchist group imprints at the bottom.

Some of the home-made posters here the slogan: 'Socialist Black' 'Bobby Sands MP, IRA hunger striker'.

murdered by British Imperialist Tories, May 28th, 1981. Others wanted 'We remember'.

...Meanwhile in Keighley, Anarchist friends have been roolin' about. The local gutter press attempts to paint the picture...

The latest anti-nuclear March for Survival has Gerry Fitt as one of the Speakers (amongst other middle class personalities who we can well do without).

Two questions:-

- 1) Will Fitt politically survive in this last-ditch attempt ?
- 2) Can he physically survive the march from Stormont to Botanic Gardens ?

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE..... THE MORE THINGS REMAIN THE SAME. E. McNabb

The National H-Block/Armagh Committee held a Recall Conference on Sunday September 6th.

Despite being one of the biggest attended conferences of the campaign, no real analysis or reassessment took place. At best, there was a tampering with the present structure. An illustration was the overwhelming rejection of P.D.'s proposal to have the Committee made up of the delegates (and work towards a delegate conference). Instead, we now have 10 more Committee members (20 elected at Conference, with 10 co-opted) an Executive of 15 of these, and a cumbersome, powerless, third tier, consisting of delegates from interest groups.

There was much talk of industrial activity, but no concrete proposals as to how this can be achieved.

The limited time and cramped space certainly played a large part, but also the domination by the National Committee (particularly Sinn Fein), most of whom were re-elected, prevented the much needed reassessment.

The venue, whilst convenient geographically, was the expensive Fairways Hotel, who charged 25p for a plastic cup of tea. The 'Light Lunch' at £1.50, was a round of sandwich, a plastic cup of soup and plastic tea.

REPORTER EXCLUDED

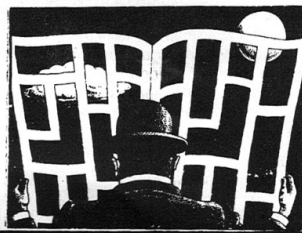
A comrade who has visited Belfast twice before was recently excluded from England.

After his previous visits he had reports published in 'Umanita Nova' and 'Le Monde Libertaire'; Italian and French anarchist newspapers. But third time unlucky. As the immigration officer at Southampton stated on Home Office Form IS 82C. 'from information available to me about your recent political activities, I am sure that your exclusion is conducive to the public good.'

Our friend's reply is: 'I know that the situation in the U.K., and especially in the North of Ireland, is more and more difficult. The authorities try to hide what is happening in Belfast as in Liverpool and London. I've been 25 hours in custody, and had many hours of interrogation by the criminal police. They took my photograph and fingerprints.'

Don't worry, I didn't say anything. The free movement of people in the 'free' world is quite limited and so controlled.

Nobody and nothing, nevertheless, will prevent me coming - soon, I hope - again to the U.K. and Ireland, even if the police said to me - NEVER !



ved this by numerous busts. Due to an increase in D.S. activity with regards to homegrown, combined with the start of the magic mushroom season, means people who are users find themselves under constant threat from the cops.

Apart from causing people great harm, the, drug squad are trying to destroy a social scene where people are able to obtain cheap or free grass and find a getaway from the business side of drug use. Dealers also see the influx of cheap homegrown grass as a threat to their maximum profit making enterprise. The more homegrown there is, the less rip-offs there are, and because dealers are harder to catch, the D.S. turn their attention to private areas.

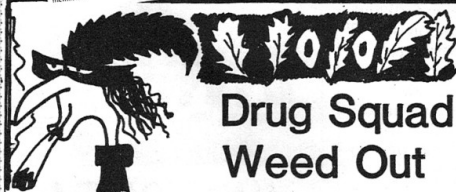
Unfortunately, the Belfast Drug Squad have caught on quickly to this relatively new phenomenon, and their presence has become increasingly felt. Searches and surveillance have been greatly stepped up, the UDR are also beginning to search for drugs, and if they find anything the consequences are exactly the same as a D.S. find. The D.S. have found it easier this year to step up their harassment, due to the acquisition of young recruits, who don't look like cops at all, so operations have been carried out virtually un-noticed, since they take the form of punks, blitzers and long hairs.

As usual, the tactics used reflect the D.S. character : underhand, planting dope on people in their homes, intercepting mail, tapping phones, trying to score dope off you, and the old-time favourite of leading you into conversations or arguments about dope or drugs in general.

So, BEWARE ! Everyone is a 'criminal' in the eyes of the state !

Due to these numerous tactics, it is necessary that people obstruct the Drug Squad by KNOWING THEIR RIGHTS. This is a much needed necessity, since it prevents McBride and his misguided colleagues from either putting you down or by making their job so easy - it seems ironic that the state sees it as necessary to outlaw dope, whilst large numbers of people can seriously damage themselves mentally and physically by sniffing glue and still remain free from a sentence or fine. Why is it that alcohol is socially accepted when it is medically termed a downer and as being inductive to aggression ?

REMEMBER. the D.S. is a growing and an active force; if you are busted through fault or NO fault of your own, SAY NOTHING until you have seen a lawyer, OR contact Just Books, (Box 30) 7 Winetavern Street, Belfast. Phone (0232) 25426.



Drug Squad Weed Out

This month is the harvesting season for the growers of all types of plants, likewise people who grow cannabis will be using this time for drying and curing their grass either for private use or for selling purposes. The Drug Squad realise this, and it seems ridiculous that people can still be fined or sentenced for the growing of a plant which in whatever state is less harmful than alcohol.

The D.S. find this time of year profitable and have already pro-

Continued from front page targets are hit with regularity, but little evidence is seen of any defensive role by the IRA or INLA other than symbolic acts. The facts that there are fewer of them, with fewer arms and the fact that they are engaged in a guerilla war means that their potential to operate as a defence force is limited.

People are not free to establish basic rights of protest and to take their own decisions for the future - any mobilisation of people in defence of their streets or in support of the prisoners is soon contained by force of arms as soon as they pose any kind of powerful threat to 'normality' - i.e. rebellious people are confined to their ghettos, whilst loyalist movements are seen as having unhampered opportunities to intimidate Catholics and to demonstrate their loyalist allegiances. Loyalists in uniform can murder without fear of the legislative retribution that Catholics face who act in self defence or who campaign in protest at the numbers of innocent victims of sectarian hatred.

What seems to be needed is the linking of energies both to resist an oppressive force, to create propaganda with the purpose of discrediting and destroying Britain's role, and to organise local defence of ghetto areas and 'grey' areas, where powerless people are defenceless at present. For the campaigns of resistance and protest to succeed, movements have to begin to complement each other rather than to continue action in isolation or in competition. Reams of wordy publications and massive public demonstrations do something to encourage commitment and to foster continuing activity, but unless the encouragement of initiatives is seen as a priority over struggles for power then the campaigns will remain fragmented and vulnerable.

As what is being confronted is a sophisticated military and political force, a co-operative campaign of resistance and defence must be equally sophisticated and able to withstand the heaviest onslaughts of repressive measures. There is no point in mobilising people only to leave them defenceless as soon as their determination begins to take effect. People would almost certainly be inhibited from taking direct action for themselves if they felt that as soon as their actions began to 'bite' they would be left high and dry to face plastic bullets or live rounds without having any practical means or tactics to defend themselves. Such defencelessness would also be counter-productive as people realised the limitations of their plans. Until that kind of sophisticated balance is evened out, no reasonable solution could be contemplated. At present, the rule of the force of the gun and all special legislative measures is rather like a gardener trying to solve the problem of weeds by concreting all over the area where they exist. This kind of blank

What has also to be noted is the frustration felt by many people about the lack of results obtained by ritual demonstrations and the anger felt by those who organise peaceful marches and pickets and who find themselves harassed and intimidated by security forces. Others

find themselves under a constant threat of attack by plastic bullets and other missiles from troops and RUC in areas where completely innocent people have been killed and maimed in totally unprovoked attacks in ghetto areas. The threat of sectarian assassination adds to this climate of fear, rebellion and violence.

Britain's inflexible attitude in the face of the deaths of the hunger strikers has meant a strengthening of the campaign of resistance and a growing covert support for armed tactics. It has also meant a realisation that it may involve a long campaign. International support has also grown, with attacks on British targets in foreign countries. In Switzerland young people set up barricades and fought with the police explicitly in support of the hunger strikers, and demanded the withdrawal of troops.

All this is not yet proving sufficient to pressurise the British state into releasing its stranglehold, nor must it be believed that Ireland could count on foreign states to influence Britain's policy. International capitalism will always seek to protect its own interests. Maybe, through a process of challenging the British presence and through the support for the prisoners' demands, present campaigns will begin to give a more thoughtful approach to the prospect of a liberated Ireland free of armed troops and to the nature of the freedom demanded.



The Census — Information and intimidation.

As the Government wasn't quite able to get the census form from people ('cause they had more sense) as they would have liked to, it looks that the Brits are now trying their luck by using different means. Recently, the British Army, in full force have been knocking at peoples' homes, pointing their guns at them and even the kids to 'ask' for the census.

It's none of their business at all, and only another excuse for showing their arrogance and 'superiority' which they can only show when they have a gun in their hands. The fact that the Brits are demanding census returns shows that there is the hotly denied exchange of information between the census office and the 'security' forces. Presumably, the census office has requested information from the Army computer, the Brits naturally obliging and trying to fill in the missing bits by extorting the information from those who were recorded as having refused to cooperate....perhaps in 1991 the census office will come straight and use coercion in the first place.

HOPE I DIE BEFORE I GET YOUNG...

BENT BUT NEVER BROKEN

Young people undoubtedly get one of the rawest deals of all. In the home we've no rights, at school we're fucked over and after that thousands of us have only a lifetime of drawing the dole to look forward to, and, if 'lucky', a low paid job where you're treated like a dog by the boss and probably by the work 'mates' as well. Being young and unemployed means the daily harassment by Brits and RUC. It's no wonder that 75% of all prisoners in the H-Blocks are under 25 years of age.

The period in our lives which is potentially the most creative, emotional and enjoyable, has for many of us been stolen or lost in the straightjackets of ghetto living, school, sectarianism, religion, parents, laws and sexual morality.

NO-ONE WANTS TO KNOW

Political parties are only interested in using us for their own ends. They treat us as inferior and aren't interested in what we want or have to say. The 'socialists' who advocate a better society, the pie in the sky, have done little for us and at best are content to provide drinks and billiards.

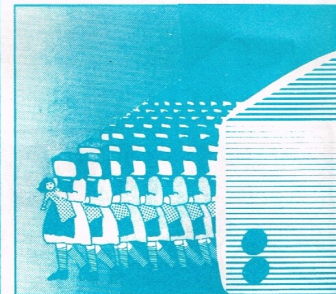
The church and state organised activities are only interested primarily in making us conform to their rules and standards and, of course, reject the 'troublemakers' who won't play along.

The only way some people are interested in us is when we become passive consumers. Our ideas are ripped off and marketed back to us through music, clothes, concerts, films, etc., . . . it's no wonder we get blitzed out of our heads through booze, drugs, glue sniffing. Anything to blot out the shit we see around us.

DON'T MOAN . . .

Young people, no matter how brutalised, are always in the forefront in the fight against authority and repression.

We have the courage to go where we want - to listen to the music we want - to wear what we want - to have sex when and how we want - to read what we want, even when you know you'll be hassled by everybody.



JUST OUT!

Three papers not mentioned in last month's issue were: Black Flag (paper of the Anarchist Black Cross), Anarchy magazine and Angry (from Hull).

These have recently given coverage to the hunger strike campaign and advocated a principled anarchist position of support for the prisoners and the necessity for withdrawal of troops.

Anarchy also gives good coverage to the 72 Irish prisoners in English jails.

All available at Just Books!

Gaining Ground

OUTTA CONTROL ANARCHA-FEMINIST NEWS

The right to vote, or equal civil rights, may be good demands, but true emancipation begins neither at the polls, nor in courts. It begins in woman's soul. History tells us that every oppressed class gained true liberation from its masters through its own efforts. It is necessary that woman learn that lesson, that she realise that her freedom will reach as far as her power to achieve her freedom reaches.

EMMA GOLDMAN 1911

BACK TO SCHOOL

The fact that education is free makes it appear like a bountiful gift, something that makes us better off than most other people who live around the world. But although education is 'free' we shouldn't forget that up to 16 it is also compulsory, and when the government goes to the trouble of making something compulsory then it is most certainly in the interests of that government to maintain it.

Education wasn't always free or compulsory. Up until the end of the 19th century only the rich were educated as they were the only ones who could afford to send their children to school. For most this meant sending their male children to the so-called public schools which were in reality very expensive private schools, or having their children taught privately at home. These schools which exist to the present day, were designed to produce the future rulers of society - the bankers, politicians, judges etc. For the rest of the people who didn't have money then they manage as best they could, most of them unable to read or write. In 1870 though the government decided that it was time that all the people should at least have basic literacy and numeracy skills, and so education became compulsory for all between the ages of 5 and 10, it didn't become free until 1900. What prompted this sudden concern with the working class and its ability to read after hundreds of years of neglect? Well it certainly wasn't from the goodness in their hearts. In the main there are two reasons. Firstly during the 19th century Britain had become an industrialised nation the first in the world, during this period it was also building a vast empire around the world, suddenly though it found itself with a rival that threatened to beat it in production rates, this was Germany then also starting to expand overseas. When British industrialists asked themselves why this was happening they discovered that the German worker was a more efficient producer than the British and the main reason for this appeared to be the fact that Germany had an education

on system. Immediately they put pressure on the British government to provide the same service. Secondly it was clear that the vote was going to be given to the male working class in the near future, and the then Tory government even then was good at spotting the best methods for capturing these new votes.

The education provided was of a very basic kind reading, writing arithmetic, and religion, any more was felt to be dangerous. Education then was a result of the demands of the economy rather than the needs of the people and its content directly reflected this.

Over 70 years was to pass before that basic system had a major overhaul, while in the meantime the rich continued to use the services of the public schools. Around 1944 the government - this time a wartime co-alition dominated by the then prime minister Churchill - came to the conclusion that a new education system was needed which would allow all children equal opportunity to get a good education and even go on to university if they had the ability. Again though the economy and future plans for post-war recovery, plus an election at the end of the war played the major role in the decision. The new plan was simple in essence it proposed that children should be sorted out at a certain age - 11 - into those children who had academic ability and those who hadn't. There was no rational reason to choose 11 as the deciding age it was picked at random although all research since then has indicated the uselessness of testing children at that age as it proves nothing about their then or their future ability, it continues to be the decisive year in most children's lives, in school at least. The children with ability were to go to grammar schools, the others to secondary moderns, children from then on effectively labelled the successes and the failures. At the same time the public schools were allowed to remain outside the state system, and to continue to provide for the rich and to go on producing the future leaders - at the present time for example nearly every member of the



and to the dole....

For the many who left school to get a job, and some independence, the old story that schools have been peddling for a long time, has suddenly become a fairy-tale. If your good and work hard here you will be rewarded with a good job when you leave. With unemployment, what it is, this is no longer true, and for many young people today, the only alternatives seem to be the dole, or the governments extension of school - the Youth Opportunities Programmes.

These courses designed to cut down the unemployment figures, can last from 3 to 12 months depending on the scheme. Although there are many differences between the courses, they do share striking similarities - they all provide cheap labour, and in virtually all cases the

continued on page 3

Tory cabinet has been to public school. So a new dawn had arisen with promises of bright futures for all children, but as before the system neatly fitted in with the demands of the post-war economy - the need for a class of professional workers, teachers, doctors, social workers, the need for a class of skilled manual workers, and of course the need for a large pool of semi and unskilled workers. It was not surprising then that very soon a pattern emerged, most working class children appeared to have no ability and went to secondary moderns, while most middle class children appeared to have the requisite ability and so went off to grammar schools. A few working class children managed to get through the net to grammar school but most of these would in turn drop out before the end and those left would be recruited into the middle class so giving weight to the illusion that anyone who had ability could really move up in the world. So the grammar schools provided the future professional workers, and the secondary moderns the rest.

Since then it has become clear that getting on in education has little to do with the ability to make your way in life, or about taking control of yourself - instead it has a lot to do with speaking with the right accent, living in the right area, being able to cope with the language of education, and having your parents make the right noises at parents meetings. The system was created by people with clear ideas about how people should behave and those who didn't measure up to these ideals were to be labelled failures, unless working class children and their parents were prepared to learn and use new codes of practice, in other words to become like the middle classes then movement was not going to be allowed. Education's main role then was and is the passing on of ideas, values and beliefs which maintain the status quo, which make people believe that they cannot change things themselves, but only adapt themselves to the decrees of others. Three of the most crucial elements of the education system are the learning of obedience to authority, punctuality, and hard work, also the three qualities most prized by employers. Schools work hand in hand with industry, and when for example the unemployment figures soar then one solution is to raise the school leaving age as has been done twice since the last war, and is probable in the future again. In school we are taught to believe that everything we are told is a fundamental truth, that education is an objective process, all of which masks the real truth, that schools merely reflect the society in which they are found and that the attitudes of that society - sexist, racist, and authoritarian, are passed on there, to children at their most formative time, as objective truths rather than partial explanations.

So the next time someone tells you that your school days are the happiest days of your life don't take it as a compliment to the educational system, but rather as a reflection of the awfulness and void of most of our adult lives.

Women's THE LADIES' ROOM

"We understood that the laws were all for THEM(men), that the set up of society was all for THEM, that everything existed for THEM. But we didn't know what to do about it. We half believed that there was something wrong with US. We crept into our holes and learned to survive."

Marilyn French's novel *The Womens Room* really made that quote come alive in all its horror and nightmare. So much so that for a time I could not convince myself that all men were not like Norm, and Simp, and Hamp, - the men in the book. Recently that same book was filmed for American TV and at the end of August it was transmitted on the BBC. My reaction on hearing about it was at first in disbelief, that such a powerful and controversial, and such a real book that spoke of the reality of women's lives would actually make it to the screen. I did not expect the production to be as uncompromising as the book - there the message is clear women are oppressed, trodden on and generally frustrated in all their actions by men, that message would be just too radical to go out on prime time TV. Nor did I think it possible that the vividness and imagination of a book that I just could not leave down for a week, and digested thought about, and reread for much longer, could be squashed into a couple of hours. Cuts would have to be made and as the film went on it became clear just what was left out and what stayed to make a good story.

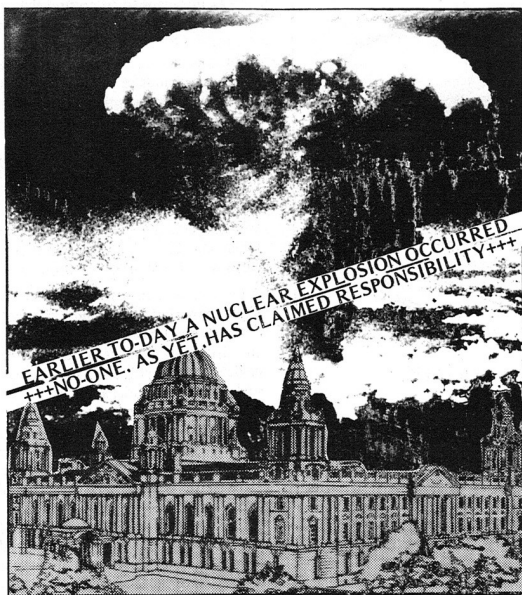
The novel tells the story of a woman who grows up in the USA. She meets Norm and instead of going herself to college, marries Norm, drops out, gets herself a job to support him so that he can finish in law school, has two sons, and as Norm becomes a successful lawyer moves out into the world of the middle class suburbia of early 1960's America. Here she makes friends with the other wives, and shares their mundane empty lives, and their frustrations. It is here that she also sees clearly that it is men who decide in the world, as she watches the wasted lives of the women around her. Never happy but at least reconciled to her life with Norm her illusions are shattered one evening when Norm calmly tells her that he has found another woman, and that he is going to divorce her Mira as soon as possible. Her reaction is to attempt suicide as all meaning leaves her life as a result she loses custody of her children after the divorce.

Faced with all this she decides to return to college and so begins a journey of self discovery, set in the late 60s. At college she meets women who like her have wasted time, in particular Val, one

of the most powerful characters in the book, who guides Mira from her shell out into the big world were suddenly she has to make decisions for herself. Mira joins a women's group, she has an affair with a younger man, who in the end wants to possess just like all the men in the book, she manages to come to terms with her two men children and they with her, and in the end she learns that life for those willing to challenge its constraints is a depressing and lonely one.

The first part of the film followed Mira's life up to the divorce very closely, the awfulness of suburban life was depicted well as was the reality of the women there. It is from then on though that the content of the film and the book began to move apart, the message started to be distorted, and by the end I began to think that it had just been rewritten. In nearly all cases real criticism of men was left out and what was repeated over and over again was the idea that men and women suffer equally from conditioning. Mira's relationship with the younger man was treated as a romance with most of the pain and hurt simply removed, so that Mira's reaction to the ending seemed hard to understand. Again although the casting was superb in some cases for example Val, who was exactly as the book had depicted her, all her best words and actions were left out and when she talked to Mira about women it always sounded like she was making a speech rather than having a conversation. And in Val's case the most important event of the book - the brutal rape of Val's daughter and her reaction to it was just written out of the book, so losing the most powerful statement of women's oppression out.

Finally the last and the worse change was the ending. Mira was played by the ever beautiful Lee Remick, who basically never managed to adequately portray Mira as the book did, who somehow always remained too good, or too long suffering. In the book the ending clearly says that in life there are few happy endings, that if a woman makes a conscious decision to live her life as a person then she risks the wrath of a manmade society. That in this society there is no such thing as love and self fulfilment on equal terms with men because they control the dice, so the choice for women is restricted - play the game by their rules, or opt out, both cost a great deal. As Marilyn French says 'the great literature of the past doesn't tell you how to deal with real endings.' Mira is left now a teacher wandering along a beach lonely, embittered, but determined to go on. The ending was profoundly depressing but also full of courage. What then of the Hollywood version? Well it was clear that a happy ending was needed and so we see Lee Remick lecture to a room of students about women, and get a standing ovation at the end. The message was clear - although we used to keep women down today things have changed, in fact the opposite ending to the book! *continued on next page*



"The War Game" is a documentary about nuclear war commissioned by the BBC in 1963 but never shown on television. The reason given for this by the BBC was that they felt that it was a bit too horrific for general consumption—today nearly 20 years later after the televisation of the Vietnam War, the BBC argue that the film is out of date and so still refuse to show one of the most powerful anti-nuclear statements that I and that most people who have seen it have ever been subjected to.

Yes, the film is horrific and it is today out of date. But it is out of date only in terms of the horror it shows in the aftermath of a nuclear war—today the horror would be greater, the devastation complete.

With the use of actors the film sets out to show what would happen in Britain if a nuclear war occurred (in the documentary it is Vietnam and Berlin that set off the fighting between NATO and the USSR). Britain would be regarded as a legitimate target and 60 acres (airfields and communication centres mainly), would be specially prone to nuclear bombing. What we see are the precautions a British Government might take faced with the possibility of nuclear attack. Firstly mothers and children under 18 would be evacuated from large urban centres to villages where they would be compulsorily billeted with families in that area. Each area would be co-ordinated by a local council and the local police force.

Having shown this the film then makes the point that firstly many women may refuse to leave their older children, unmarried sisters and their husbands or brothers at such a time. It also points out that in a multi racial society, tension in racial terms might also arise as people try to refuse to billet those of a different colour.

The film then goes on to look at the effects to a small village when a military airfield 12 miles away is bombed. Firstly, anyone outside at the time is likely to receive severe retinal and skin burns from the flash and the blast afterwards would shake houses. Within a radius of 15 miles burns would still be severe.

In the aftermath, the documentary in a clear and simple manner shows a people, many of whom have not been affected by the first blast, fall ill with radiation sickness (likely to affect most of the population because wind carries radiation easily). It shows a medical system collapsing under the weight of inadequate medicine and the sheer number of casualties as people are divided into three categories—those who will die no matter what treatment they receive (these are left in pain and suffering) and as time goes on the film indicates likely to be shot to speed the process up); those who need treatment but will live; and those only slightly hurt who will recover without treatment.

As food grows short, priority supplies are used only for those who are working ie: those maintaining law and order—the police; army/government officials. The population is likely to grow restless, looting and so on and people shot in the streets. Many people will sink into apathy, mental illness will be common and diseases such as cancer would be horribly prevalent particularly in children exposed to radiation.

The documentary went into great detail on all these points and left me feeling sick, depressed and angry. Afterwards I reflected thought that nuclear weapons have become more sophisticated and deadly since 1963. If a bomb was dropped here tomorrow we are no better prepared for it than in 1963 but the devastation would be complete. At the moment the plan goes something like this—at the warning of an attack all important people

would retire to shelters (there is one in Northern Ireland), whilst the rest of us above ground would have to fend for ourselves for the first 14 days (the time it takes for radiation levels to drop) In effect that means for most of us to die. There is no such place as a safe place—bigger bombs disperse bigger radiation—so that if a bomb dropped on Belfast given wind conditions people in Donegal would feel it within a day, possibly hours. Radiation sickness is a horrible death. Add to this burns of the severest kind and a legacy of cancer of every type over many years. (For example today in Hiroshima and Nagasaki they still suffer the after effects on the 1946 Bomb). Deformed babies would be common after such an attack.

There is no such thing as a limited nuclear warwe are all affected. And as Reagan gives the go ahead for the neutron bomb the threat grows daily. This bomb is designed to do minimal damage to property but maximum damage to people as its radiation levels are increased enormously.

Its time we all got up and said no—there is no getting away from the nuclear menace—no good saying it doesn't affect me because it affects everyone —no good saying what can I do because you can protest to survive.

Subscribe to Gaining Ground

In future issues we would like to include book reviews, film reviews, and we would also like to do more personal interviews about the lives of women, if you have any ideas, we can be contacted at Gaining Ground c/o Just Books, 7, Winetavern St, Belfast 1.

If you would like to subscribe please send request plus £3 in Europe, and £6 outside Europe, to receive one years sub.

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people doing the courses come away with little real experience at the end.

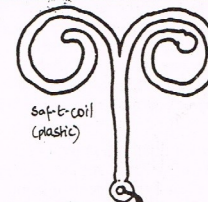
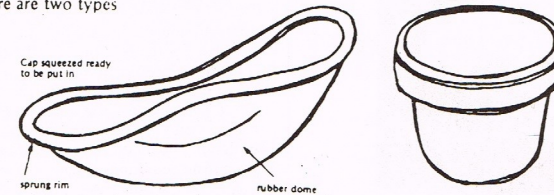
When on the course you receive £23.50, higher than the dole, the main incentive for many young people. And in the end often the only thing you will gain from the course. In a future issue Gaining Ground hopes to deal in more detail with the whole subject - if you have any ideas or direct experience of the courses we would like to hear from you. Contact address above.

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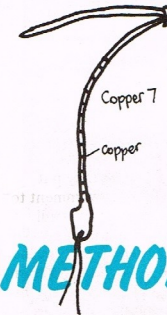
If anything the film served to underline the book and to prove its message - the world is made by men for men, their image is the one that will prevail. If you haven't read the book do so, and avoid the film if you want to find out about the reality of women's lives rather than the fantasy Hollywood story

The Cap or Diaphragm (or Dutch Cap)

There are two types



NEW IDEAS FOR OLD METHODS



In the last twenty years we have seen a massive increase in the types and brands of contraception available to women. Most of the research has gone into the pill—low dose, high dose, combination, sequential, progestogen only, 21, 28, 20 or 22 pills etc—and into the copper IUD's and the dangerous injection, Depo Provera, when the popularity of the pill waned. In the early sixties, scientists saw the research into the contraceptive pill in terms of controlling population in the third world rather than any great desire to free women from the fear of unwanted pregnancies. Yet, what they had seemingly developed was exactly what women were looking for—a simple 100% safe contraceptive. The pills in their little foil press out packs slipped neatly into the 'bright' and 'confident' mass myth of the sixties together with the instant convenience foods, paper cups and plates, plastic beakers and artificial gimmick foods and sweeteners. People could get something almost for nothing, with the minimum amount of effort, which could be thrown out for something slightly different. Obsolescence was planned into our lives. The highly packaged pill fitted into this somewhat clinical atmosphere, signifying freedom and emancipation for millions of women.

The swingin sixties didn't last. By the end of them the side effects of the pill were becoming known. Problems ranged from being a nuisance to major complications. Women felt irritable, depressed, were having breakdowns, migraines, high blood

pressure, blood clots and thrombosis and cancer. By 1970 Germaine Greer was to write in the *Female Eunuch* 'the devisers of the pill worried so little about the female psyche that it was years before they discovered that one woman in three was chronically depressed'. The connections between the pill and a woman's frame of mind were made too late for some women. Many could not understand why they should get so depressed. The fear of becoming pregnant had been removed, they had been liberated, so why then should they be so unhappy?

But it was the scare of 1977 when the Royal College of Practitioners dropped its bombshell that women on the pill had a 40% increased risk of dying that finally did it. Half a million women dropped the pill overnight and looked around for an alternative.

Improvements had been made in the inter uterine devices. The Copper T and its later more reliable relative the Copper 7 (Cu 7), became popular IUDs for women who had not had children. IUDs have been around for thousands of years but they are not without their side effects either; becoming pregnant for example, miscarrying or having an ectopic pregnancy, or the fact that they just might drop out or disappear having punctured a path through the walls of the womb. Not a common occurrence but no woman wants to become that statistic however small.

Today the choice is more clearly defined—cross your fingers and use nothing, cross your fingers and hope that there is no risk to your health, or go back to the rubber devices which have no side effects bar such comments from men 'like wearing a wellie boat' and 'going swimming in a waterproof mac.' The cap is an obvious form of contraceptive and women have been mould-

ing 'all sorts of materials from opium to beeswax into caps to fit around the cervix for over 4,000 years. The diaphragm was invented in 1882, the first time that a reliable and safe contraceptive was actually put into the hands of women solely for the purposes of contraception and emancipation rather than the dictates of overpopulation.

Mainly because of the concentration of research onto the pill, little work has been done on the cap since 1953, but with the increasing swing towards barrier forms of contraception (20,000 conventional caps fitted in one year in the USA), various new devices are now under trial.

A Californian company called Vorhauer plans to market their vaginal sponge device in the USA, France, Germany and Britain in 1982. It is a disposable device made of polyurethane and pre-soaked in spermicidal solution. It can be left in the vagina for up to 48 hours, whence it is removed by pulling on a loop and thrown away. Needless to say, it failed to meet the standard for new contraceptives set by the World Health Organisation (less than 6 pregnancies per 100 woman years), but the manufacturers claimed that women in the trials didn't use it properly and were inexperienced! Another team competing for the vaginal sponge market have made theirs out of a natural material collagen—(a tough protein which makes up one of the main components of skin), apparently this version is highly absorbent and acts as a true sink, soaking up the sperm.

Thirty women are trying out a disposable sponge diaphragm that has the same rim as the conventional diaphragm but the body is made out of spongy collagen with a high dose of spermicide. All of these methods are disposable and therefore wasteful and expensive and rely heavily on spermicides which some women react badly to, suffering rashes itching, burning and cystitis. It is difficult to see what real advantages they have over the conventional methods.

One particular research does sound interesting. The idea itself is 150 years old but nothing was ever done about it until now. It is to custom make a cap, like a dental plate, which will stay in place without suction or pressure and without eroding the mucosal tissues. It has a one way valve for menstrual discharge. The longest period it has been worn is 22 months, with no detectable adverse effects, no odour problems because the cap fits perfectly and there are no cul de sacs or voids where mucus can collect and cause problems and the cervix apparently looked a lot healthier than in women using alternative forms of contraception.....this device could be available within a couple of years.

The pill and the IUD are not the miracle solutions to contraception that they were thought to be. Increasingly, vast numbers of people are using the sheath and the cap. A 100% safe and healthy barrier contraceptive like the cap is possible and would provide a real alternative to the pill and the IUD.

OUTTA CONTROL

New Views of the
Belfast Anarchist Collective

SPECIAL STATUS FOR N. IRELAND

Ten prisoners have died on hunger strike in their fight against criminalisation. All the 5 demands have not been granted, but the concessions won (only prisoners in N.I. can wear their own clothes and get 50% remission and the strike itself, coming after 5 long years of the blanket and no-wash protests, have shown the world these prisoners are political. The publicity generated concerns not only the prison issue but the whole question of Britain's right to be here.

Offshoots from the end of the strike will undoubtedly be a campaign in British prisons to get these conditions; and an effort by Irish prisoners there to be sent to prisons in Ireland. There is the potential here, on the basis of the courage and militancy of the republican prisoners, for all prisoners to challenge the label of criminal, and the rest of us to question the nature of prison itself.

LOYALIST REACTION

During the brief loyalist hunger strike, that potential was string, but the manoeuvrings of the unionist politicians, the churches and the UDA destroyed it. Today Paisley threatens a reaction against the concessions by the NIO, ignoring the 300 loyalists in the H-Blocks who will also benefit. The UDA stated before that their prisoners would accept any concessions won, but now have to cover themselves by saying that its 'a victory for violence'. What they mean is they weren't prepared to fight for them. With cap in hand approach, they complained that the NIO had ignored their delegations for improved conditions for 'conforming' prisoners. It is doubtful if Paisley will get any real support since the concessions apply to all.

REPUBLICAN INACTION

Although they lost 10 of their best people the republican movements have gained publicity and support. There has been an increase in recruits and finances to the IRA and INLA in response to the intransigence and repression of the British government. Much of the media coverage has identified them, especially SF/IRA as the sole protagonists in the hunger strike protests; and through elections there

are 2 IRSP (and 2 PD) councillors and one SF member of parliament. It will be very interesting to see what social and political statements Owen Carron now produces (if any) that the strike is over. If Adams stands against Fitt in the next election, will the new attitude in favour of electioneering force SF to come up with answers other than 'Brits Out'.

The H-Block/Armagh Committee concentrated on the lobbying of priests and politicians, and it was these forces by their manipulation which helped defeat the hunger strike. This concentration shows a bankruptcy of political ideas. Republican News, while offering detailed reports of protests and explanations of the prisoners motives, made no real attempt at analysing how the hunger strike could have won, other than parroting the SF leadership's lobbying tactics. The last H-Block committee elected in Dundalk consisted of no new people who were likely to adopt a

fresh approach but was made up largely of the old nationalist brigade.

AFTERMATH

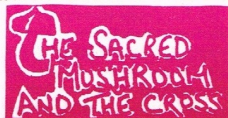
There have been many people outside the republican groups who were fined and imprisoned for the protests. The arrests will continue for the protests. The arrests will continue for previous action. Recently in the South a young man received 8 years for burning down a castle, to highlight the H-Block issue. The National Committee has a responsibility to defend and support these people, in addition to the efforts of local committees who can't bear all the costs, nor don't have the resources of publicity.

There may be a period of quiet in Long Kesh and Armagh for a few months, but the struggle will inevitably continue, and we hope it will not only be an extension of the fight against the British, but also against prison itself.



Religion began when the people of this

earth tried to work out the fertility of themselves, the fertility of the land, the effects of the sun and the moon: later, as it got itself organised in the hands of a 'few', it became the path to 'knowledge' as defined by that few. Now, it works as a control over and above us. A control that operates through fear and guilt; the emotions of the mind they prey upon. A bit like the 'state', that body of opinion-makers, laws and law enforcers; all those who seem to have the say over our daily lives. Like the church, the state operates by putting fear in our heads, and punishment in the here and now to our bodies.



With the church, our heads are strictly finite, an empty case to be filled by a limited line of thought - what they tell us. The state allows us to think what we like, though spends a considerable amount of energy making sure we think what they like.

Continued on inside page

THE POLICE ARE CELEBRATING

When it came to showing to millions of viewers each week the scenes of inner city blight, houses that aren't fit to live in, kids with nowhere to play and the continual Army/Police presence it was too much for the BBC.... They deemed the video which accompanied the 'Police's' new single as too political. They were afraid that even showing the social conditions was dangerous and might suggest to people in Britain that all was not quite as normal as the British Government would have them believe and that the appalling conditions may even be why people are resisting. But don't be fooled into thinking that the 'police' are concerned about the situation here (what with their ex-CIA manager and their third world tours pushing western consumer culture, not to mention their generous handouts to a social democrat line magazine).

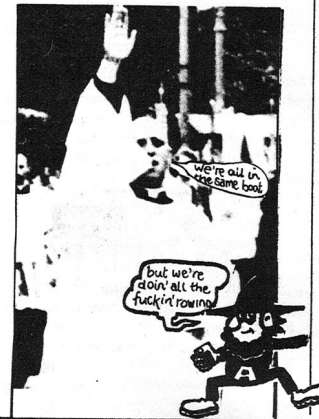
Crass info.

Meanwhile the next single from the Crass is about - guess what - yes, Ireland. After paying them a visit we can assure our readers that they aren't the usual rip-off and sell out types, but feel sure that the single will benefit people here in some way. They have another project in the pipeline concerning Ireland which could involve you. Watch this space for further info....

Footnote: When asked about their last visit to Dublin, the Police singer Sting said, "There were young kids up at the front throwing bottles at my head, saying that we were cultural agents of British Imperialism." !!

'WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW?'

This heading has become a bit of a standing joke when people are talking about the present strategy (if it is one) of the IRA leadership. At not one stage in the H-Block Hunger Strike did there come from this quarter a clear and easily seen position. So it begs the question what are you going to do now? We have watched, and in many cases been amazed, by the speed with which this organisation changes its mind as to how and where they will allow the people to act. From encouraging resistance to outright oppression of the same resistance, we have watched them wavering and dithering as they strive to control the uncontrollable/rebellious and, in the main,



Continued from front page

All this helps to explain the hysteria of the moral and legal authorities to 'mind-altering' drugs amidst the jargon about fear for our safety, protection of the young etc., etc., they set strict legal and moral limits on our experiences. If they were so concerned with our health and our state of mind, wouldn't they do something about that which is destroying us? about lead in the petrol? or DDT in every vegetable? or men walking about with guns? No - they are too busy in case our minds - our bodies - get outta control. Maybe we could think independently, maybe we could act independently. But we are forbidden the use of those drugs available around us which can teach us, which can alter our perspectives, our way of looking at our day-to-day existence. Maybe that boring job isn't worth it any more; maybe the rules and regulations, the do's and don't's of church and law just don't make much sense anymore. Maybe the potential of our daily life is something other than it is. To think like that is to think revolutionary, which is always the fear of church and state.

But that is not to say that a handful of magic mushrooms will change the person, will bring a revolution in Lady Dixon's...

every and any attempt at resistance that undermines the IRA authority. It isn't new and it isn't correct. Why is it that they feel threatened when at the same time they mouth phrases and make statements about revolution? From policing marches to prevent a riot with the tools of the free state government, they have now arrived at the position where they threaten the people who riot in the aftermath of a hunger-striker's death - and worse.

The Divis flats are regarded by even the most conservative of people as no more than a ghetto. In the mind of many others, Divis Flats, like Ballymun, are the edifice of corruption and graft. They are not fit for human habitation and should be, like all the other hovels in which we are forced to live, destroyed, and replaced by structures and accommodations that humans can live in, without having to worry about where the young people can play and whether or not the winters will bring pneumonia and all the other afflictions that Divis-like ghettos entail.

Yet what do we see? In this, of all areas, one of the most deprived in an already poverty-stricken wasteland, the local priest and his cohorts descend with brushes and paint in a perverse 'Clean Up Divis Campaign' - and who is it have threatened local people not to interfere in the forthcoming spectacle? None other than the IRA. How can this statement of policy be reconciled with the facts of Divis and the other deprived areas of the country in general? This priest is foremost in condemnation of the people when they act to resist their oppressors. Are we to witness the IRA pandering to the demented notion of a priest that poverty looks a lot better with a coat of paint? Or that a bottle of disinfectant will remove the appalling stink of the carcass of this sick society that is so well symbolised in the Divis flats?

No-one, I am confident, likes dirt, and few would regard it as pleasurable to

the means of altering the mind can be abused just as it is used. But as long as hallucinogenic mushrooms are kept in the dark, a sin and a crime, then our use and our knowledge can only get warped by their interference. **Magic Mushrooms** have been used throughout history from 'christians' and 'jews' to 'druids' and 'witches' but always by the few, eager to keep the knowledge, the experience, from the many - to have power over them. Such power in ourselves - each and every one of us - the church and state will always try to prevent.

But care - magic mushrooms which are springing up in all the parks, golf-courses and horse-manured fields of Ireland, are a bit different from state-approved, profit-motivated drugs like *valium* and *alcohol*... the experience is a bit different from the rosary or a few hymns! Start small, have someone who *knows* them to identify them. That way, the experience spreads and abuse is easier to avoid. It is best to TAKE them along with someone who has experimented before. The effects are monumental; not at all easy to describe..... Suffice it to say that you are altering the state of your mind from its everyday closeness. You break out of the very clearly def-

live in decaying surroundings, but there is a clear distinction between self-imposed decay and the type of decay that Divis flats suffer from. As with the other ghettos, it shares the distinguished Housing Executive as landlord, and though, as a body, they inherited the rent books from the old Corporation, they are the responsible body - as they will often remind those in arrears of rent! It isn't for the people to put a brave face on their social inequality, neither is it for the priest or the IRA to aid in this masquerade - which would be really funny if it wasn't such a serious matter.

There is no option to the people of Divis. The fact is, they are the victims of other people's greed, and their sufferings will not be alleviated by brightly-coloured paint or other decoration. It is a bit like offering someone with bad breath a bottle of mouthwash. What the person really needs is a healthy diet that will prevent such a problem. So too, with the people of Divis. They need better and more comfortable homes if they are to prevent outbreaks of brush-wielding priests outraged by the unsightly state of the poverty in Divis. Why, for instance, doesn't the priest go along and make noises with the people who claim the rents but not the social responsibilities of these blocks of builders' profits?

- From a political prisoner in Northern Ireland.

Letter from a Belgium after a visit here.....

..But it reminded me too much of the German occupation at the time, and although I was only 10 by the end of the war I have had enough fears to have certain feelings now when seeing armed troops and police on the streets. But to tell you the truth, in a way I find it worse to have to see the RUC than the British, because the RUC should be your own people. It was the same thing in Spain when I made a quick trip there in 1971 or so.

ined strictures of our day-to-day existence in a way that few can achieve by mere experience alone. In altering your thinking - and acting - self, you need to be in 'safe' and relatively free surroundings, somewhere you can wander physically and mentally. It is **NOT** recommended to try magic mushrooms anywhere where police, parents or unsympathetic people are about ... you are going out of your head as you have known it, and it's enough to deal with yourself without having to relate to those laying the 'heavy norm' upon you.

Take them when you FEEL you are ready for an experience quite unlike any other not when someone forces or persuades you. Likewise, to spike anyone is a mean and dangerous antic and you'll get rewarded accordingly.

Legal Note:- the active ingredient of psilocybin mushrooms is outlawed, and placed alongside heroin and concaine - Class A - under the Misuse of Drugs Act... it carries big penalties! However, you're only guilty if you 'make a preparation'. Picking mushrooms and eating them is not a crime, nor is the possession of mushrooms which have 'dried naturally in the sun' before you pick them. And believe it or not, they sometimes do!

BLACK STAR - the first Anarchist paper from Ballymena. Articles on Anarchy, Jack White, Poland, Marriage, Religion, El Salvador and Nuclear Weapons. "An historical document, though the J. White article has a couple of dubious assertions" I. Paisley. (Available at Just Books)

LOVE AND RAGE: Entries in a Prison Diary by Carl Harp. the murdered N.American Anarchist. His struggle for survival and sanity against violence of the prison system. (see article) Available from Just Books, 7 Whitewall St. Smithfield. Price £2



James Rafferty and Jack Hassard are two names the RUC would like to forget..... or silence. Last week Rafferty was charged with the murder of 2 RUC men, and Hassard spoke in his defence.

Their names were first linked in 1976. After interrogation at Omagh RUC barracks, Rafferty was taken to hospital for treatment. His case was one of many where systematic torture was used to get 'confessions', and which was exposed internationally by Amnesty International and Peter Taylor's book 'Beating the Terrorists'.

Then a member of the Police Authority, Jack Hassard, (also an independent councillor and ICTU representative on the PA) found his allegations of torture were substantiated by medical evidence. He began to push Chief Constable Newman for a prosecution against the RUC involved, but with little effect.

Rafferty took out a civil court action which has yet to be heard. Hassard, after 2½ years of pressure on both the RUC and the DPP, won a partial success. In December 1980, a tribunal, under the terms of the N.I. Police Act, was set up into the allegations.

In a clever move though, The Defence counsel, Ferguson, asked Rafferty if he was area O.C. of the Provisional IRA. The Chair, Gibson, and prosecution counsel, Boal, both advised Rafferty not to answer, whereupon the RUC walked out. The Tribunal had no power to sub-poena their evidence, so it soon ended. But as a result, 4 RUC detectives (one chief inspector and 3 constables) were charged by the DPP with causing actual bodily harm. The trial is the first of its kind and is due soon.

It is more than coincidence that Rafferty was re-arrested last week for 2 murders in early September. What is strange is Rafferty's apparent watertight alibi with dozens of 'respectable' citizens to testify as to his whereabouts. It is also known that he's been under constant surveillance since his first release. Jack Hassard appeared at his remand hearing and said that because of his interest in Rafferty since 1976, he believed him innocent.

If and when the case comes to court, (internment by remand is not uncommon) Rafferty will have spent many months in prison. It is likely that during the RUC detectives' trial, he will still be in prison.

This will give the RUC three advantages -
He is punished for alleging assault;
The charge against him, even if dropped, will stick like mud (it is alleged he is on a loyalist hit squad in Fermanagh);
and the RUC on trial won't look so bad if their accuser is in prison, suspected of murder.

FRONT ORGANISATION

The BBC has recently hand picked a new batch of puppets which it can use to give the impression that the media is fair, balanced and democratic. The BBC will no doubt use this committee in rubber stamping its consistent censoring and distortion of what's really going on here.

Most of the notables on the council are, of course capitalists who will be only too glad in cooperating as its in their own interests to maintain and reinforce their position and ideology. Of course we have the token liberals to give it credibility, like John Freeman, Secretary of the TGWU and Hugh Frazer, director of the N.Ireland Voluntary Trust, but I guess that they have already sold out by sitting along side such shifts.



Meanwhile our Berlin correspondent writes....

"A week of constant demos, some riots, and reflection on the killing of the young demonstrator — forced by a police charge into a busy road and knocked under a bus. Now there is the amazing memorial in the road where he was killed — which is a 'shrine' (non-religious) of flowers and poems and candles, plus displays, and the graffiti all around the area, plus mattresses and tents where scores of people sleep every night. There's always a couple of hundred people milling around, and the road is, permanently blocked in one direction. The pigs don't know what to do, and it's right in a main part of the town — a very wide commercial street. Yesterday, an ordinary 45 year old bloke in a Mercedes (!) refused to stop when told to by a pig — who then panicked and shot the driver dead. Gets more like Belfast every minute..."

SQUATTING



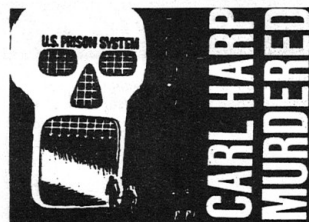
The state maintains that every family has the right to a home, yet thousands live in overcrowded conditions, in shums, in cars, in caravans, in hostels or doss in the streets.

So why no action?

Everyone is aware of the appalling housing situation, thousands are affected by it, yet it has remained an area of little agitation or activity. Fragile links between protestant and catholic groups engaged in some form of agitation are easily broken by sectarianism or the priority given to the national question.

Housing action groups have been manipulated by political parties for their own ends and by government city council agents who clearly channel peoples energy into forming committees to meet with bureaucrats, into signing petitions, and advice centres which only offer words and not houses.

Individuals, fed up with sub standard housing or even worse, no house at all, are forced to squat. When faced with the threat of eviction



On the 5th of September 1981, the anarchist prisoner, CARL HARP, was found dead, with his wrists slashed and hung by a telephone wire in his cell in Walla Walla prison in Washington. The State declared it as a suicide act, but people who know about Carl's life and his work in prison know it was MURDER.

Having been sentenced to four consecutive life-terms for rape and murder (Carl maintains his innocence) he decided to fight the prison regime and the State, by any means he had inside the prison. He evolved, through a constant and intense struggle with the State, into an anarchist, and co-founded the anarchist Black Dragon Collective, and their publication 'Black Dragon Anarchist'. His revolutionary work in prison included the churning out of letters to the outside, helping other prisoners in their legal questions, teaching some to read, and writing books.

He was threatened (two years ago) to be killed, after he had taken ten staff hostages, together with two others, to highlight the poor prison conditions.

Carl Harp won several suits against the State, made the judge declare Walla Walla as 'CRUEL AND UNUSUAL' and was awarded \$7000 for being illegally kept in segregation for 14 months.

He was a THREAT to the State. They hated and feared him. So they killed him.
: In Memory of Carl Harp :

the housing executive are finally forced to offer you some alternative accommodation. It is difficult to get support as most people see it as queue jumping with the weakest going to the wall. In Britain, the anarchists pioneered squatting, it was a great form of direct action, it forced the state to admit that there IS a housing problem, and it introduced people into alternative ways of living. Most squatting took place in the private sector, which eventually led to heavy confrontations during evictions. It did a lot to thwart the property speculators plans. Empty council property was also squatted which forced the councils to make all sorts of concessions and build more houses.

In Northern Ireland there happens to be very little squatting in private property, which is mainly in middle class areas. This factor would make potential squatters isolated and vulnerable to police/army harassment and sectarian attacks. It restricts squatting to working class ghettos which are largely owned by the housing executive.

Squat now while stocks last!

Perhaps more attention should be given to the University area. There are empty houses and being a middle class mixed area, are less likely to hostile attacks. Along with the Catholic church, Queens University own a lot of houses and would be less likely to go for all out confrontation, as this might highlight their role as property speculator. Squatting would challenge the private landlords in that area who flagrantly exploit the need for homes by demanding figures as ludicrous as £200 a month for a flat (next time give your land lord what you think is a reasonable figure!) And just think of the potential of the Russel Court Hotel, which has lain empty for years whilst it could be housing hundreds who are in need of a home. Queens University were thinking of buying it from its present owners, CIE (the Southern Transport Company...but surely there are people more deserving and in need than students?

HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN!

With the H-Block campaign dying out in the South, it seemed a mistake for the State to charge 19 people in connection with the Embassy riot. This case could provide a rallying point for people and an opportunity to attack the repressive machinery of the South, especially the Special Criminal Court. Whether this happens or not depends on whether people in the South can be motivated enough to do something about repression and become aware of the parallels between North and South.

But the fact that the people were arrested in the first place cannot be taken out of context. Some people have cynically suggested that it was done because the Special Branch had nothing else to do! This denies the fact that the cops have not been sitting around on their arses for the last few weeks.

We have a new coalition government and for all its Liberal/Social Democratic mutterings, one of its central concerns is law and order. This is especially important now that 'the recession is getting deeper'. Unemployment is increasing - officially, there are now 130,000 unemployed. Also, people are beginning to experience a real cut in living standards. Inflation is presently running above 20%, having increased by 5% in the last three months. The dole is going up by a pathetic 60p in October. In this kind of situation resistance could easily grow. The coalition are making sure (or at least trying to) that it does not occur.

The German word 'Tu wat' means 'do something'. So during August and Sept. a 'Tu wat' festival occurred in Berlin. Below are some thoughts and accounts on what happened during a part of that month.

BERLIN 81

Those involved in challenging the state, capitalism, and the patriarchy are all part of 'the movement'. How individuals and groups organise is very different from here in Ireland, or even in Britain. There are few influential groups attempting to 'build their party'. Anarchists, socialists, womens collectives, gays, punks, individuals are all part of that movement. Socialist/Anarchist groups are few and far between because these philosophies and to a lesser extent feminist philosophy are accepted rather than having to be argued for.

Another new type of political philosophy has developed, especially among the punks, where the notion of the 'revolution' will never come about. The struggle is today and now, a struggle involving yourself in everything on a day to day basis - transport, entertainment, drink, housing are all stolen, liberated, taken or whatever - so there is a constant battle with authority.

The present strength of the movement comes from the squatters. Berlin at present has 10,000 empty buildings which are used in the game of property speculation, building luxury apartments, office blocks, and of course there

Their outlook could be summed up by saying that they want to show firmly 'who is the boss'. The cops have adapted this attitude and, looking back to the last coalition, they know they can get away with anything they like. The last coalition was notorious for its law and order outlook. It brought in 7-day detention, and under it the 'heavy gang' were free to do as they pleased. They beat confessions out of people, which were judged to be 'valid' in the juryless Special Criminal Court [not dissimilar to the conveyor belt in the North].

The cops are very conscious of the fact that the coalition now rules. Around the city they have become more cocky, and already some people have been severely beaten.

In Crumlin (a working-class area on the South side), on the 22nd of August, two men were picked up by the Crumlin Gardaí. One of them was so badly beaten that they had to call an ambulance to the station. He had to spend 13 days in hospital recovering. It seems that this was in retaliation, because these two had complained about being stopped, held at gunpoint, and searched, the week before. The injured man was later charged with assaulting a cop.

A Picket was called by the Prisoners' Rights Organisation, to protest about the beating. In the course of organising it, they discovered that the cops were involved in harassing and beating local youths. One family in particular, where there are 11 children, was getting a bad time of it. All of the kids had been involved in the

is a housing shortage more acute than most European cities. Berlin attracts so many young people because it is governed not by W. Germany but by the 'Allied' Powers. They go there to escape compulsory conscription. One hundred and sixty buildings are squatted. Each building is usually 5-6 stories high which were already divided into flats and can house between 100-150 people. Those who are involved are not interested in negotiating with the state. The local parliament has attempted to integrate the squatters, by having dialogue with an aim at reforms, such as legalised squats similar to short life property in London.

There is a struggle against the state, and housing as a basic need is only part of that struggle. Other areas include prisons, capitalism, anti-imperialism, anti-nuclear, gay politics and feminism. Actions and the spreading of information against multinationals, banks, department stores continues. I didn't see one bank which didn't have its windows smashed - the banks no longer replace the plate glass but rather glue more glass on over the holes and cracks.

Activity has increased greatly around prisons since many people have been put away over squatting, anti-imperialist activities and during the last hungerstrike. The political prisoners in Berlin (RAF and 2nd June members) receive a special status - that of isolation torture. Their campaign in the past has been one of attempting to win the same conditions as the social prisoners. It seems likely that they will restart a hungerstrike during October for that end.

The state has made obvious its recognition of

H-Block campaign. When they turned out for the Picket, one son was told that he would 'get it' by the cops.

On the 8th of September, his brother was forcibly abducted, taken to the grounds of an old manor and beaten to shit. Perhaps it's no coincidence that Ned Ryan, who was head of the heavy gang, is now stationed in Crumlin.

In Ringsend (also on the South side) on the 13th of September, a 17 year old lad was arrested and taken to Irishtown Station. Here he was beaten, kicked and had his head knocked off a wall. When his father complained, he was ignored (as usual). In this area youngsters are being constantly harassed.

These are just 3 incidents where attention has been drawn to them. Others are occurring but have gone unreported. Also, the harassment of those still involved in the H-Block Campaign continues. The cops are determined to show that they are the boss.

As the recession gets worse, the occurrence of such incidents is likely to increase. Also, we should not think that having a Fianna Fail government would make any difference. Under it, people were equally harassed; especially H-Block activists.

But under the coalition, the prospect of harassment has increased. Hopefully the trials of the 19 people will be used to expose the repressive nature of 'the Free State', and show that the 'bosses' can be challenged.

the political motivation of many of the social prisoners in that they are building a new isolation/high security prison for up to 200 prisoners and Berlin has only 12 RAF prisoners. After a demonstration led by a punk band, protesting against the new prison, the police fired tear-gas and chased demonstrators into the underground where they indiscriminately went into the carriages and beat up people whether they were on the march or not.

An anti-imperialist demonstration against the visit of Haig to Berlin attracted 80,000 and there was fierce street battles afterwards. In Berlin not only can you be arrested for offensive weapons, but defensive ones as well.

This includes having a scarf, or being in possession of a 'lemon' (by squirting into the face this can help to offset the effects of tear-gas.)

One of the biggest surprises for me was the strength of the counter-culture. The movement has its own bars (one was called after Bobby Sands), cafes, films, videos, cabaret, daily newspapers, bookshops, halls, free schools, city farms, social centres, printshops (both litho and silkscreen), etc., etc.

Something which impressed me took place at a mass squatters meeting to decide what action to take during the proposed eviction of 8 houses. There were no groups, parties, or collectives there arguing their line - but rather 300 individuals who all had opportunities to say what they wanted, and many did. No chairperson was required and as is unusual in mass meetings, women dominated.

Gaining Ground

**OUTTA CONTROL
ANARCHA-FEMINIST NEWS**

The right to vote, or equal civil rights, may be good demands, but true emancipation begins neither at the polls, nor in courts. It begins in woman's soul. History tells us that every oppressed class gained true liberation from its masters through its own efforts. It is necessary that woman learn that lesson, that she realise that her freedom will reach as far as her power to achieve her freedom reaches.
EMMA GOLDMAN 1911

Mondays child is born with force Thursdays child, the same, of course....

If you are pregnant and living in Fermanagh then you can accurately predict that your baby will be born on a Monday or a Thursday during the working day. Some Some natural births do occur spontaneously but it is evident that obstetricians in the Erne hospital in Enniskillen, the only hospital in Fermanagh serving the whole county, are over enthusiastic about inducing birth and there may be as many as 80% of births induced for reasons of administration and social ease.

Induction was the in thing in the middle seventies with over half the births in Britain being induced and one or two hospitals reaching the 80% mark. It has now become 'unfashionable' and hospitals like the Royal Victoria hospital in Belfast for example are cutting induction rates down to what is thought medically necessary—around 5%-10%. In fact it is possible to have a Leboyer type birth in the RVH on request.

Much of the controversy has centred around the hormone oxytocin, which is used widely to stimulate contractions. The problem with oxytocin is that there is no safe standard dose and a woman on an oxytocin drip has to be constantly monitored with special equipment to see whether the uterus is under or over stimulated. It needs no stretch of the imagination to see

that half a dozen births being induced at the same time with short staffing or other emergencies happening, are not going to get the constant monitoring, accuracy and sensitivity that there should be and midwives often do have to look after 2 or 3 labours at the same time.

A woman on an oxytocin drip is more likely to rupture the womb or to give birth by Caesarian section. Her blood pressure may rise and foetal distress particularly the baby's breathing is more likely. In view of the high infant mortality rate in Fermanagh anyway this becomes even more worrying. Many mothers who have been induced complain that their contractions have speeded up so dramatically that they have lost control over their relaxation techniques—some women have not been able to relax at all during contractions because of the speed with which one contraction overlapped another and they were in continual pain.

In America the FDA has withdrawn its approval of oxytocin for induction and doctors can only induce for medical reasons like toxemia, diabetes or distress in the foetus. What this has meant in practice is that more inductions are shifted into the 'medically necessary' category. In this country there is no control whatsoever over the use of oxytocin and it is therefore important that all women are informed of the risks involved and of alternative methods plus the choice to have their

TURF LODGE FLATS-OLDIES REPLAYED

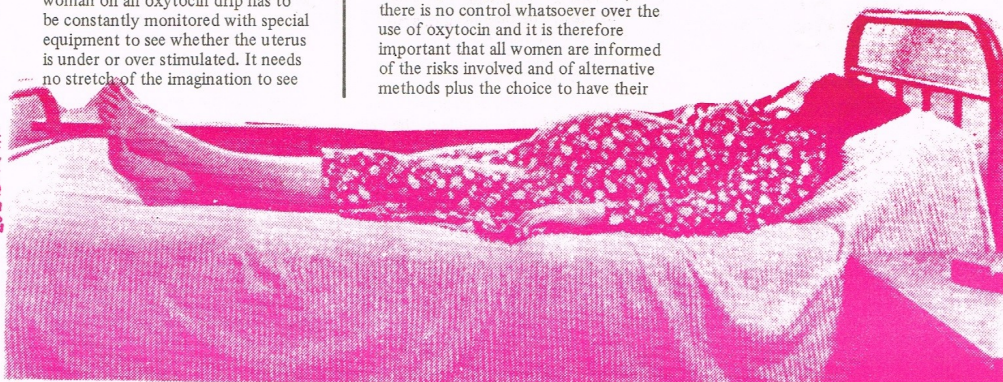
Some years ago Rosie Nolan took her own life. She hung herself in a flat in Turf Lodge, finally giving herself release from the depression induced by her surroundings. Her action provoked women in the area in similar conditions to get together and demand that something be done about the situation that they lived in.

Turf Lodge flats were built in the early sixties. As time went by it was clear that they had been built in a hasty and unplanned way that suited the building contractor (and saved him a great deal of money) but not the future tenants. Materials had been cheap and costs had been cut to a minimum again at the expense of the tenants. Condensation is a fact of life,

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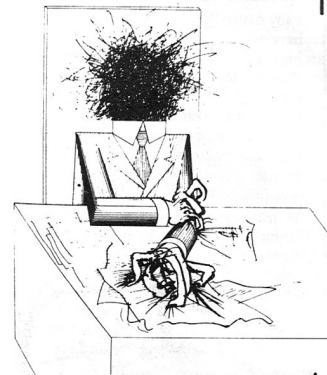
baby naturally (over 90% of births have no complications). Women in Fermanagh do not have this choice, they are being pressurised into induction for hospital convenience and routine—and often they are ignorant of the risks.

Women in Fermanagh are not allowed any choice as the only other hospitals, Omagh and Newry, are miles away, and their only alternative is to 'fiddle their dates' and hope they go into labour naturally before they are taken in.



Out of work on the Falls

September 8th was the date when school leavers could sign on for the first time if they had left school in the previous six months. The queues outside the Falls Road dole office stretched far down the road and seemed to stay around the same size for most of that Monday and the following few days. The office stayed open each evening to seven and half seven trying to cope with their 'normal' business and this new influx. The Falls Road dole office is a place where every taxi stops passing the people streaming down to sign on, through the deafening turnstile, worn shoes and boots looking out of place on the dark brown carpet lit up by the sun glinting through the tinted windows. Identical security women in their uniforms with their faces caked with powder stand at each entrance and doorway and security cameras peer round every corner, inside and out as if someone is watching from a hidden room. Never a word is uttered as you sign on except maybe what held you up this morning. The man behind the desk is in a different world.



In the weeks to follow people were to be given signing on times as late as 6.30 and 7.00pm—the Falls Road dole is one of the busiest in town. One of the ways around it has been to make all those over 50 sign on only once in 3 months! For them the message is clear—don't call us, we'll call you....your working life is effectively over.

Paid work in our society is generally repetitive and boring—it is a means to gain money. When all is said and done

there are very few people who would willingly go on working if they could get the money some other way. But money is important in our society, it brings status, it makes life more comfortable, more bearable and for all but the idle rich to get money you have to work. That is the message of school—work hard and get a job at the end, of the media, get promotion, more money and spend etc.

If you can't work for whatever reasons sickness, disability, age, gender or because you can't get any then you are penalised. You are given a handout by the State to make life not for living but subsisting, so small that you can only get basic food (if that) so you can't afford to get too warm, or drink too much, or get out of your area very often. You are a reject, a scrounger. Very often those out of work come to believe this message, they begin to see themselves as the State sees them—worthless, a parasite living off others, they blame themselves for their situation. Sometimes though, the unemployed become angry and challenge the State and its forces as happened in Britain this summer when young people, black and white, decided they had had enough of weddings and spendings when all they had was street corner—they knew who was to blame.

On the Falls Road this week the mood was bleak. Street corners are heavy with young men and women quietly talking and looking. The bookies are doing a roaring trade and the pubs are fairly full though the customers didn't go up to the counter too often. In the shops the selection is narrowing because customers stick to basics and luxuries like biscuits or butter are not in too big a demand. Depression is all around you. And the situation is not helped by soldiers patrolling constantly stopping the groups at the street corners to hassle just to give themselves something to do. It's ironic that most of those same soldiers joined up so they didn't have to stand on similar street corners in Bradford or Hull or Newcastle upon Tyne! The oppressed make the best oppressors.

Women on the Falls are bearing the brunt, trying to make inelastic money stretch, getting into debt, borrowing from the credit unions for the 'extras' like shoes and underwear. The tickman has again become a familiar visitor on a Friday night about teatime—the dole cheque would have come that morning.

Repression, oppression, degradation—call it what you will but the people of the Falls have been kicked, beaten and battered to their knees, like people in so many other communities here. Violence has been a presence on these streets for over 10 years now, the potential for more stands on the street corners and all the youth employment schemes, training centres and job centres in the world won't stop it. Even the state, well practised in the arts of cunning and pulling the wool over our eyes can go too far—the harvest has yet to be gathered.

For better or worse and worse!

The recent debates over the changing of the Irish Constitution, particularly in relation to divorce, have been more concerned with making the 26 counties more acceptable to the loyalists in a future United Ireland, instead of being directed at the mess that exists in the South for the 50,000 people whose marriages have broken down and the many more who are denied the right to contraception and abortion.

If certain polls and politicians are to be believed, there is a majority opinion in the South that the ban on divorce should be removed and that each individual has a basic civil right to divorce and that with the holding of a referendum, this ban would be removed.

The Catholic church, whose strength and influence in the thirties and forties resulted in the ban on divorce and other reactionary social policy, have not remained silent this last fortnight. It was remarked that 'people who advocate divorce will do more harm to this country than the men of violence' and Catholics are urged to accept the totally out of touch with reality solution of 'the family that prays together, stays together'.

For many women, especially those who have been battered and abused, had to put up with excessive drinking and misery, there is a need to be emotionally and legally free from the husband and to ensure that there is no harassment in the future. It is possible to obtain a legal separation in the South but to do this both sides must co-operate and many women have complained that their husbands have laughed at them when they suggested 'anything legal'.

Men are also much freer to desert, especially to England, where there is no need to give any identification and it has proved impossible for the woman to find her husband and claim maintenance from him. Men (and women) who desert are also able to obtain a divorce in England on those grounds because they are domiciled outside of the Republic although the status of the spouse left behind remains unchanged—the divorce is not recognised.

Social policy, particularly in relation to the family and the rights of the individual—divorce, contraception, abortion, homosexuality—is archaic in the South and has become a huge public problem. The Irish Constitution, steeped as it is in 1930's Catholic preachings, is totally unsuitable for a modern society and people are rejecting what has been aptly termed finding an Irish solution to an Irish problem and demanding a secular society.



Continued from page 1

as is damp clothing and bedding, growths over the walls and the incidence of bronchitis and related diseases. The final straw came when sewage started to leak into the flats particularly after rain and the whole area was rife with rats and other vermin which tenants despite all efforts could not get rid of. The Housing Executive who were responsible for the flats kept fobbing off the tenants and denying their complaints in the press, inferring that the tenants had brought the conditions about themselves.

The Women's Action Committee led by Kathleen Tibideau pressured, picketed demonstrated and used every means possible to bring attention to their plight. Finally an independent firm of surveyors were brought in to assess the flats and the Housing Executive agreed to accept their findings. The report was a great victory for the women—it said that all the complaints against the flats were correct, the flats were unfit for human habitation due to bad construction and poor quality materials and they recommended rehousing for the tenants and that the flats should be knocked down. Publicly embarrassed, the Housing Executive gave way and agreed to do so. The women's committee had been vindicated.

After the euphoria had died down the press forgot about the flats and moved on. Unfortunately though three years later, most of the tenants have not

moved on they are still living in the flats. Why? Because the Housing Executive still hasn't rehoused them and asserts that it won't have houses until at least 1985!

The Women's Committee have been forced back onto the streets again. Conditions in Turf Lodge are now worse than when the report came out because some tenants were rehoused and their flats bricked up—leaving lots of space for rats to build nests and tunnels throughout the complex. They have already picketed the HE offices. The HE have predictably responded by saying they have not got any houses. The tenants say refuse to move out of the area (to estates like Poleglass or Antrim/Craigavon) and the tenants reply why should they, they have been there for many years, and that the Housing Executive is responsible for the state of living conditions in the Turf Lodge flats. The result is stalemate. Meanwhile women must worry about their children being bitten by rats, about contamination from sewage and about damp. The attitudes of the state is clear....the working class is never a priority, they can be allowed to live in conditions like these because their bargaining power is small. Pot holes in the streets of the Malone Road area on the other hand must be mended immediately—its very bad for car tyres you know.....

The Irish Women's Diary and Guide Book is just out. There is a major section on women in Northern Ireland. Topics such as single parents, education, unemployment, poverty, social welfare, biographies on women in Irish history, violence, justice, law and health. Its a pity they couldn't have found a more appropriate cover, preferably done by a woman. Diary costs £2.10. Available from Just Books, 7 Wine-tavern Street, Belfast.



IRISH WOMANS
DIARY 1982

CRAWLEY CRAWLS ON

Last July Gaining Ground exposed the activities of the boss of the Central Library....Mr.Crawley.....who abused the workers, made dictatorial decisions and provoked much anger and resentment when he banished the kids library to some obscure corner replacing it with a 'business reference' section.(something the library already had). After reading the article in GG he threatened to sue but changed his mind when he realised that most of what had been said was actually true.

Three months later, the dictatorship of the amazing Mr Crawley shows itself again. He has decided to move the central library lending HQ (ie: that bit where all the branch libraries get their books) to the Shankill Road branch. As over 50% of the staff in this section are Catholics (in the Belfast meaning of the word) they have been forced to ask for transfers. Once again a total disregard for the people who actually do the work in the library is displayed by Crawley. It seems that he is trying to create Ireland's first only prestigious REFERENCE library....and doing away with any contact with the people. This aim is helped along by moving the lending HQ out of the building.

Crawley got an OBE for his troubles in 1980 and obviously wants to retire with a knighthood. If the 'kids library' were to be transferred to his plush office for a day or two that might thwart his plans.

DON'T QUOTE ME...



Mr. Prior after visiting the Kesh on the Hunger Strike declined to answer further questions saying "there will be plenty of time in the next few days, I am digesting things very carefully"

Ian Paisley on Mr.Prior "He didn't understand anything about the Ulster Special Constabulary which he seemed to think was some sort of unofficial Protestant paramilitary grouping" and that Mr.Prior displayed "the belief that the Stormont administration felt when the Official Unionist Party walked out"

Peter Robinson DUP on the Taoiseach and proposed constitutional changes. "perhaps one of the first admissions from a leader in the Republic of Ireland that the state there was built on a sectarian base" Why does such clarity stop at the border?

Cardinal To Mass O Fiach on the ending of the Hunger Strike "Thank God, its ended"

Mrs.Prior in Robinsons and Cleavers "I want to get a pair of pyjamas for my husband and some tights"

WOMEN TORTURED IN TURKISH PRISONS



The Centre for torture where many women and men are brought to for internment is called DAL (dayak adama lazindir) which means translated "people need corporal punishment!" It makes it obvious from the very start what sort of treatment prisoners have to expect there. In Turkey the police don't need any justification for to intern people, its enough to be a suspected 'anti-fascist'.

In DAL, heavy torture is a daily routine. They let people stand on one leg, fingers touching the wall for any length of time from 1 day up to 10 days. During this they don't get any food or water and are not allowed to go to the toilet. When they get weak and fall down, they get beaten up. These methods described are only used to prepare people for the real torture which takes place in three special rooms. The most common forms are electric shocks on parts of the body (Falaka), beatings with a stick on the feet tearing out of single eyelashes and finger nails, beatings while having ice cold showers, cigarette burns and so on....to just about the maximum people can take without dying. The torture is so calculated. One reason for this is that once people are dead they can't talk and give information any more and the other reason is that it would appear bad in front of the European Parliament where there has been a lot of discussion about the 'violation of human rights' in Turkey.

A woman prisoner reports after 4 months detention in the women's prison in Ankara.

We, the prisoners, felt the effects of protests from other countries very much.

We are certain that our torturers have got the order to be careful and not let prisoners die. I heard of a case of a pregnant woman: the police didn't beat her and she wasn't treated with electric shocks.(cause those methods could have led to death for her and the unborn child) yet she was burnt with lit cigarette all over her body and her eyelashes were torn out. The pain she suffered was equally bad. But she didn't die. In another case the torture was stopped because of the breakdown of the tortured woman. In many cases the police treat the prisoners after torturing them. After the revolt the internment period was increased to 90 days so the cops have the possibility to detain prisoners as long as all the wounds have nearly or completely gone.



The women's prison in Ankara

For a long time there was only one prison MAMAK, for political prisoners in Ankara. Since MAMAK became too small, all the women were transferred into a second prison a transformed 'school complex'. In the womens prison there does not exist any military

education as in MAMAK. The big pressure lies really in the torture, because they can take the women away to the centre DAL whenever they like. In many cases they have been taking relatives, wives, brothers and sisters of the male prisoners to the DAL to put pressure on the male prisoners to talk.

Resistance

There have been some actions and protests in the women's prison. On the 7th May 1981 all women prisoners took part in a solidarity action with a group of women prisoners who were not allowed their weekly visit. Everyone refused to go to the visit and there was a protest of the parents and relatives outside the prison for a whole day. After this incident the cops made the prison conditions worse. They introduced military education for about 50 prisoners, whom they accused of having led the protest action. But they had to stop doing it after two days because all the parents demanded of the 'security council' to stop the punishment. The prisoners inside have only a certain amount of abilities to protest and there is a lot of solidarity action needed from the outside.



A few hundred women marched 6 miles from the border at Muff to join the Derry Civil Rights Anniversary March last Sunday, 4th October. Women have always been in the forefront of the campaign for the prisoners demands and some relatives of the dead hunger strikers attended the march.

outta control

News & Views of the
Belfast Anarchist Collective

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW
MORE ABOUT THE BAC...
WRITE: BAC, C/O
7 MINSTER ST.,
BELFAST.

OUTTA CONTROL... of the state, bosses, patriarchy, schooling, churches... As Anarchists we oppose the authority and exploitation of this society, and advocate one of free association and self-management. This paper comes out every four weeks and we welcome contributions, criticisms etc.

UP PAISLEY!

Gay law reform which will result from the Strasbourg ruling must be welcomed especially as it involves acting upon recommendations of the government Wolfenden report of nearly a quarter of a century ago! It is of course the barest minimum and it IS needed. However it must be recognised that so called 'reforms' are often merely an effort to regularise an existing de facto legal practice and in reality effectively 'tighten up' laws not being changed. The introduction of such laws are usually accompanied by reinforced vigour on the part of a vindictive police force wishing to be seen to be enforcing the newly clarified legal sanctions. Since the passing of the '67 Act in England the number of persons convicted of indecency between males quadrupled! Talk of 'reform' overlooks the totally oppressive nature of the remaining laws against homosexuals and the discriminatory nature of law enforcement against gays.

R U 21

The '67 Act sets the age of consent for gay men at the absurdly high age of 21 years. Society entrusts its young adults with the power over life (parenthood and marriage) and death (in the armed forces) in their mid teens yet would not allow individuals of the same age the basic right to express love for another.

Furthermore whereas heterosexuals can freely associate it is a serious offence for gays to meet one another publicly or to make any public expression of affection—even holding hands! Finally, private and public bodies, housing, newspapers, pubs, town halls, employers etc can all blatantly refuse to accommodate gays simply on the grounds of their sexuality!

Although the Strasbourg ruling establishes for the first time the rights of gays to a private life as a fundamental human right it did not deem it necessary to consider the wider implications of these rights. The contradiction seems to be that while every human being has equal human rights, some are less equal than others. The court decided not to consider the rights of male gays under the age of 21. Likewise the court failed to consider the question of discrimination (1) on the basis of residence in N.I. (11) on the point of discrimination compared to female homosexuals and het-

erosexuals, under Article 14 of the Convention which states: 'The enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in this Convention shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion'. The court deemed that having found Art. 8 breached that there was no need to consider Art 14 as well. They seemed to fear that consideration of this article would raise wider issues. This would raise the basic question about rights being equal for every citizen. There is scope for bringing a future complaint on the breach of Article 14, but that could take another 5 - 6 years!

The court stated that marked changes had occurred in laws regarding homosexual behaviour throughout member states. The dissenting Irish judge feared that this might suggest that a Euro norm in the law on gays has been or can be evolved. To some extent such a Euro norm would hardly be likely nor would be desired by gays. For example to get an agreed Euro age of consent would mean accepting an arbitrary generally agreed age. What can and must be done instead is to establish the principle that there should be equal treatment for heterosexuals and homosexuals. The court ruled that it is up to National bodies to decide on an appropriate age under which young people should have the protection of the law. This should mean equal protection for heterosexuals and homosexuals. A favourable ruling under Art 14 would have meant also that governments would need to introduce anti-discriminatory laws such as in Norway.

The ruling of the court requires the British Government to bring N.I. into line with the existing laws on homosexuality in the rest of the U.K. However this does not mean that all future legislation on homosexuality will automatically be extended to N.I. The courts failure to consider discrimination, under Art.14, on the grounds of residence in N.I. means that regional discrimination can continue. Should legislation based upon the recommendations of the Policy Advisory Committee be introduced in the mainland it could be a decade or more before such legislation would be extended to here — if ever at all!

PRIESTS & POLICE

The RUC have ingratiated themselves with a usually hostile community AND struck a blow for puritan morality...

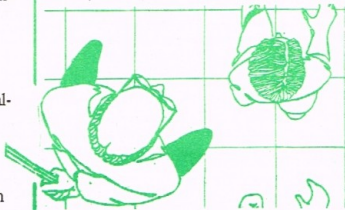
The opportunity arose recently in the Springhill area of Ballymurphy. Two young boys, aged 15 and 8, extended their play to include exploration of each others bodies. When the mother of the 15 year old learned of this, she asked the boy's uncle to take him to the local priest for advice. The priest suggested the social services.

Instinctively bureaucratic, they took out a "Place of Safety Order" and brought the boy to an assessment centre. Here he was examined by a Psychiatrist, who found his behaviour to be "as expected in most children of his age range", and recommended a return to home.

The social worker concerned wanted to take him home, but the RUC, who have a direct information flow from the social services, objected and charged the boy with "Gross Indecency". They fought bail, so he was still held in the centre.

To forestall the RUC, the social worker brought a civil case (on the same day as the RUC's criminal case) asking for a 'Fit Person Order', which would give the Social Services responsibility as a parent. The social worker maintained in court that they would allow the boy to return home.

The mother has been on her own ever since. She has been confined to a wheelchair for 14 years with multiple-sclerosis. Her husband left her shortly after the boy's birth, so as an only child he has taken care of her all of his life — giving her baths, running messages etc.



Some of the local community have threatened the boy, should he return. The parochialism, fear and guilt of sexuality has forced some to be violent in their reaction. Because of this threat, the boy is still held in the centre. The mother

cont. on back page...

prison report

CLOTHES

The initial 28-day 'breathing space', since the Hunger Strike ended, is over. All prisoners in Long Kesh now wear their own clothes, though there is controversy still about what the screws decide to let in. One day a navy jacket is allowed in, the next it's not.

ARMAGH

But the real problem now is work. In Armagh, where the women have always worn their own clothes, Mairead Farrell put forward the names of 4 'Volunteers' to do wing maintenance. Scott, the governor, refused to accept them. He soon announced his own choice of those who'd do that work - it was the same 4 women! Eilis O'Connor, just released, explained that he takes fits of not recognising Mairead Farrell.

KESH

In the H-Blocks, the first 36 men to start work were involved in cleaning and maintaining their wings. But the rest of the prisoners, in groups of ten, were invited to take part in an 'assessment process' where work would be allocated. After the experience of the first 10, the rest decided not to take further part.

MENIAL

The prisoners have repeatedly suggested a wide variety of work and education acceptable to them, but the authorities have offered nothing new. A statement last week said, 'To the prisoners it is clear that the British are attempting to use these 36 men to cause dissension among the rest of us who are prepared to engage in exactly the same form of work, but who are still being punished for 'refusing to work'.

T.B.

Marian Clegg has reportedly contracted T.B. in Armagh prison. She has been moved to the prison hospital, whose facilities are inadequate for even the common cold. It is vital that Marian is moved to an outside hospital for immediate treatment, and not left to deteriorate like Pauline McLaughlin, or the Price Sisters.

GAYS FOR SELF-DETERMINATION!

Brixton gays and Irish gays in London were among the many banners on the 300 strong Troops out delegation to Belfast on August 8/9th. One of the reasons for a gay presence on the delegation was to show support for the most oppressed section of gays in Ireland - those under army occupation. It is bad enough facing the outright hostility of the churches without the added brutality of the state forces dominating every aspect of your life.

Throughout Ireland gay people are denied the right to exist. We are told at school how sinful and evil we are. The mass media subjects us to insults and abuse, constantly pressuring us to think and behave in heterosexual terms. We are disowned by our families and friends. Homosexuality, like contraception, abortion and divorce, has very little place in the established code of morality. The medical profession attempts to treat us with hormones or aversion therapy, with disastrous results. In the eyes of the law we are criminals, deserving of long prison sentences. Is it any wonder that so many gays end up committing suicide?

A number of gay groups have been set up in Ireland over the past few years. They have endeavoured to relieve the isolation of homosexuals and to challenge the institutions which oppress us. David Norris brought a case against the Southern government last year on the grounds that its anti-gay laws were unconstitutional. Typically, the case was lost, but at least the subject was brought out into the open. In the North, Jeff Dudgeon, from the Northern Ireland Gay Rights Association, took the Westminster government before the European Court of Human Rights to force it to extend law reform to Northern Ireland. The court found against Westminster, but the wrath of Ian Paisley and the connivance of Cardinal O'Flaherty ensured that Ulster would be saved from sodomy.

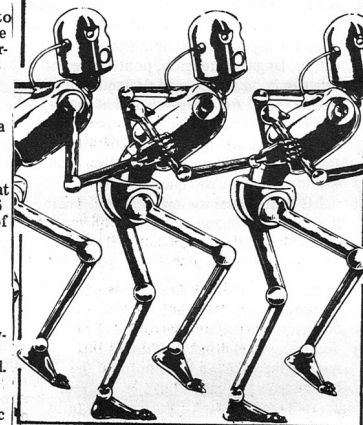
The failure of these cases raises the question of the usefulness of demanding reform from the state. NIGRA, by recognising Westminster's alleged right to legislate for six counties of Ireland, has completely alienated itself from most nationalist homosexuals. It has only shown them contempt by stating that the British army ought to remain on the streets and by not questioning the whole nature of Unionist misrule.

.....AFTER EFFECTS.....

The School Rules.

No peace to be shattered -
Preserve the dusty relics
of Disease under the
Hard Glass Dome.
No freedom, no choice.
Orders, demands, a voice
from the bitch "at the top!"
"We tell you what to feel
Without us, you're not real.
We've had it done to us
Look - see
There's no real me.
I'm just a functioning
machine order - taker
taker
taker....."

- Breakdown in apparatus -
Sabotage suspected -



Recently published is a pamphlet by Gerry McCrory, 'Authority Has No Tears'. Gerry is presently an inmate of Long Kesh. He has political status. He wrote the pamphlet between 1977-80, and silk-screened his own graphics for it, along with the help of other prisoners. The pamphlet consists of one large poem, which appears to be a quite personal analysis of today's society. Related of course to Ireland, but the reader can understand that it could have been anywhere.

In poetic form Gerry manages to give a criticism of modern-day issues like women's rights, the family, sectarianism and the cops and the State. Although it takes a lot of concentration to understand the poem fully, it is well worth it, if just to get an understanding of what many prisoners are thinking.

It costs 40p and is available from 'Just Books', 7 Winetavern Street, Belfast.

Rafferty Released

The RUC's attempted frame-up of James Rafferty fell apart 2 weeks ago. Their two star witnesses, neighbours of Rafferty, admitted they were pressurised into giving identification evidence against him by the RUC. One week later Rafferty was freed. Four RUC officers are currently awaiting trial for assault against Rafferty back in '76, when he was tortured in Omagh Barracks. The RUC's latest apparent bungling might reflect a deal whereby if they let Rafferty go, the officers, too, might get off.

As the coming RUC trial will be the first of its kind, we patiently await ULSTER justice!

Law reform was possible in England and Wales during the '60's because it was a time of economic growth. There was a boom in industry, and the state had enough confidence to ease its inherent repression. Throughout the western world a Womens movement as well as a gay movement began to question the whole sexist, patriarchal system. The role of religion, the family, the media - as a means of preserving power and privilege - came under scrutiny. Abortion and homosexual law reform became symbols of that era.

But during the '70's the tide began to turn. The economic boom gave way to stagnation. The state responded to progressive demands with more repression and the family and religion, as traditional methods of social control, were given a new lease of life.

The nuclear family operates as a mini-state - a state within a state. The father maintains his power often through violence. As well as physical violence he often uses emotional blackmail. Because women are dependant on men they are forced to satisfy mens needs before their own. A woman's role is to be locked up in a box called "home", performing domestic services, cooking, cleaning, raising "his children". She is expected to look attractive to him and satisfy his sexual desires. The state behaves as a father figure to many of us - it gives us money to survive one day and plastic bullets the next.

Religion serves as a tool of the ruling class in propping up this system. By telling women to obey their husbands and slaves to love their masters, the patriarchal, class nature of society remains intact. If sexuality weren't restricted to husband and wife, if women had control over their bodies, their lives, they would be on the road to economic independence and patriarchy would begin to lose its grip. The "holy family" serves the ruling class (A) as a consumer unit and (B) by reproducing more workers to be exploited.

Gay people represent a threat to the "moral fabric" of society. This is why we are rejected by our families, harassed by the state, ridiculed by the media, discriminated against at work and beaten up by queerbashers. Law reform doesn't get to the root of the problem - it merely makes cosmetic changes to the ugly face of patriarchy. It facilitates the development of a commercial gay scene whose only function is to exploit us.

British imperialism works hand in hand with the churches to keep the Irish working class on its knees, women in the kitchen and gays in the closet. Gay liberation is therefore about the destruction of patriarchy, of capitalism and of imperialist domination. For this reason sexual politics has to be central to the anti-imperialist revolution. That is why we say GAYS FOR SELF DETERMINATION!

Padraig O Flaithimh and Robin Gibson.

APART - alternative
connection, political & social satire
JUST DESTINY - refuge to
classified - don't want to be a
sub-culture

TONY ALLEN - alternative
connection, political & social satire
JUST DESTINY - refuge to
classified - don't want to be a
sub-culture

SUM - film about Bristol
Bristolianism / banned by BBC.
ALLOTTOPES - electronic
improvised music

SAT 14TH
1 - 5PM
#122 (11 unplayed)
CENTRE,
LONG LANG,
LR-NORTH ST.

Two women in a struggle, said to be the first
"Dilemma" tell them what they want and they'll
do it, a book of that name, #149 from West Books.
I will write it next issue.

SIDE
LINES

A CENTRE A CENTRE

Last Saturday saw the opening of the "A" Centre in Long Lane, of North Street in the City centre.

On the bill for the day were several bands, a cafe, books n' badges, a film (The life of Brian — previously banned by the City Council and publicly denounced by the DUP).

The opening of the building provides the opportunity for a breakthrough in Belfast, young people seeing little else to do than to be ripped off by the abundant "amusement arcades," record shops and the like. It is hoped that participation between those using the building will be the key to future developments — Unfortunately such desires were not respected by the "forces of law & order," who maintained a presence outside the building throughout the day...what a shame it would be if people were to be drawn away from the usual rip-off merchants who have a stranglehold on all forms of so-called entertainment in the City.

Perhaps not surprisingly, most of those attracted to the centre were punks...possibly drawn by the circled "A" used as an emblem for the centre. Should be interesting to see if any real affinity with anarchist practise develops in the days ahead. But don't think that the building was created for the exclusive use of punks...it is there for anyone who wants to contribute to the general happenings.

The building itself is spacious, with different activities going on simultaneously, meaning that people could wander around and decide what they wanted to do, or where they wanted to be. It is hoped that future developments will provide more than enough stimulus, without punks feeling the need to resort to sniffin' glue for "kicks," and for us all to be able to enjoy ourselves without feeling the need to artificially induce feelings of freedom.

In the future we would like the present



activities extended to include theatre, discussion, possibly craft workshops, times devoted to themes such as culture and oppression, reggae, feminism, etc etc...but above all the emphasis will be on participation from all those who use the building. Difficult but not impossible to make a break from the stereotyped passive consumption scene and to move on to greater things.

Anyone with ideas, skills, crafts etc which they would like to put into practise should contact: "A" CENTRE c/o Just Books, 7, Winetavern St, Belfast 1. Ph: 25426.

SQUATTING IN AMSTERDAM

It is 11am on a Saturday morning. We arrive at a squatted hotel, by a canal, in one of the most exclusive areas of Amsterdam. Already 40 or 50 colourfully dressed squatters have gathered there. A group of people, 3 men and 2 women, want to squat a house, and the rest of us have come to help. People are loading chairs, tables and material for barricades onto a van. The sun is shining.

There is a last minute hitch, the house we are going to take is on a busy shopping street, and we have just discovered that a strange event, a mass jogging marathon, will be passing the house all day. Probably the street will be crowded with police and spectators.

We decide to try it anyway and set off, about 70 of us by now, to the empty house a few streets away. Sure enough, the street is crowded, and police are directing traffic. We line up in front of the door, all 70 of us, and pretend to watch the joggers, clapping and cheering as loud as we can. The police smile back at us, suspecting nothing.

Behind our backs, Hans is smashing the two Yale locks with a hammer and chisel. He is nervous, and it seems to take ages. Then suddenly the door is open and people are rushing in. The van pulls up and a chain of people pass the gear through the door. The door is shut, and barricaded, then comes the loud banging of hammers, as bedsprings are nailed across the windows. A big banner flaps out from the roof — One more house has been liberated!

That was the first squat of the day, by evening we have successfully taken four — If the house is empty and unfurnished, and not rented to anyone, or being redecorated, the police cannot legally evict you — Unless they can find out your name. A strange law! We barricade every house securely — so that the police or landlords' men cannot get in within the time it takes to call out the local squatters to defend it. In a few months a new law will make it much more difficult to squat.

The following Tuesday there is an eviction at the Groenburigival, we have been expecting it, rumours have gone out that the special riot police have been seen. Informers have told us that they will come at dawn. The inhabitants of the house have barricaded it with steel plates, and bars, wire mesh, trap doors, bedsprings, barbed wire etc — They know that they cannot hold the house — the idea is to make the eviction as difficult as possible.

At 4am they send out a general alarm — through the squatters telephone network (those without phones are knocked up out of bed). Hundreds of sleepy eyed squatters start arriving, and barricade the area, overturning cars, tearing up the cobblestones.

At 5:30am, 1000 riot police arrive, in armoured trucks, complete with dogs, riot gear, tear gas, motorbikes, horses, bulldozers and helicopters. The barricades are set alight and abandoned as the police smash through. But it takes them three hours to break into the house, by that time large crowds have gathered and are held back by the riot police. Dozens of police in disguise mingle amongst the crowds, but small groups, especially the Anarchists roam around stabbing the tyres of the police vans and smashing windows. That night we march around the city barricading streets, chasing police cars and smashing windows of banks and speculators. The house is lost, but the next day 2 more are squatted...

Squatting in Amsterdam is now a major problem for the authorities. 50,000 people are in need of housing, there are about 10,000 squatters. The main motive is to get a roof over your head, but it is more than that. The squatters are a strong community, against authority and control of all sorts. They have their own squatted pubs and cafes and cinemas, their own illegal radio (done one evening a week by an Anarchist group, one evening a week by women, etc.) their own theatre, music groups and newspapers from various areas. Squatters aid groups, squatters depots etc. All this activity is done quite voluntarily by various groups living together in squatted houses. Most of the squatters are in council houses but in the past few years about 300 houses in the main 'speculation' area of the city centre have been taken. Many of them are huge monumental canal houses, worth hundreds of thousands of pounds. Also empty offices, factories, schools, churches, a swimming pool and even an old prison have been squatted! The squatters transform these buildings, mainly into living space, paying out of their own pockets. There is a voluntary levy of about £1 a month, which is used mainly for printing costs.

Contrary to the newspaper reports, squatting is not highly organised. The city is divided up into areas, in which the squatters organise new squats and actions, which are discussed at meetings, but nobody is ordered in any way by any squatters authority, because no authority (or any infiltrating political parties) are accepted. There is a strong Anarchist and feminist current within the squatters movement.

The squatting within the city, and the increasingly radical resistance of squatters and their supporters, has led to the passing of a new law in the Dutch parliament, prohibiting squatting, which will come into operation by the end of this year. In order to contain the expected riots the occupants of the old squats will be given one year to find new housing, which of course does not exist. Squatting will certainly go on in Amsterdam, but the atmosphere is growing more tense by the day.

From 'Tulips' in Amsterdam

REJECTION

"Severe sentences demonstrate the community's rejection of drug taking," said the Judge at Belfast's Magistrate Court as he passed a sentence of 3 years on someone unfortunate enough to get busted for cannabis possession.

But the "community" (whatever that means) doesn't reject drug-taking....in fact, society exists on drugs of one sort or another. What the Judge was trying to hide was his total compliance with the wishes of the Drug Squad and in particular their big chief — George McBride — who recently shed tears because "...the likelihood of being given a custodial sentence for drug taking is remote." So severe sentences do not demonstrate the community's rejection of drug-taking — but merely the fears and frustrations of the DS who are helping to create the problem in the first place. And "severe sentences" are sure to follow when those caught are "unco-operative", who don't implicate others (usually their friends).

Judges act accordingly when you don't play their game....hence 3 years for cannabis. (This particular case also showed the Judges attitude towards the solicitor — A Long Kesh graduate suspected by the RUC of aiding the mass break-out of Republicans earlier this year. Just how severe the Judge was can be seen when it is compared to another case the same week when a UVF man got what could be a seven year sentence for the murder of six people...he'll be out in 1988 if he remains a "Free Presbyterian"!!

The media treatment of it all was as expected... the "Irish News" (via Mr Tom Samways, well known for his alcohol drug abuse) equated drug taking with every heinous crime imaginable.... while the "Belfast Telegraph" went to great lengths to broadcast the wisdom of DS McBride and threw in all the cannabis horror stories that some obscure US Harvard researcher could think up. How wrong can they be! Cannabis is not addictive (to say it leads on to Heroin addiction because 99.9% of heroin addicts say they started on cannabis contains as much common sense as saying every alcoholic started on milk).

....It is not dangerous. It is a mild relaxant which can help blot out the grind of Belfast life and leads our thought process towards more creative and imaginative avenues. No wonder the Courts, the police, the media get hysterical, they are reknowned for neither their imagination nor their creativity.

cont. from front page...

wants to move to another area to enable him to return, but her landlord, the Housing Executive, is reluctant to help. They say her present house was adapted for her at great cost, and another one is too expensive.

Another example of the insensitivity of Belfasts establishment (and thats putting it mildly) was the refusal, until the repeated and prolonged appeals by the boys solicitor succeeded, to move the court to a ground floor. The mother had been unable to attend the first three preliminary hearings because of this.

The RUC has made sure it was seen to help the local community by charging a 15 year old boy. This was especially important in an area where the local people normally see the RUC as oppressors.

Those who have threatened this boy and his mother are the ones who are sexually distorted. Such a violent, puritanical and neurotic reaction to sexuality is an indication of the success of the Christian Churches.

HARD DAYS AHEAD

At a recent conference in Dublin on the Irish economy a grim future was predicted for all. The conference was organised by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) whose basic function is to carry out research into various aspects of the Irish Economy and make recommendations to the government. The ESRI is supposedly independent and its independence was stressed in the Taoiseach's speech to the conference. But basically it's only interested in making capitalism work more efficiently. It never challenges the basis of capitalism and its exploitative nature. But even for an institute such as this the main conclusion of the conference was that there will be little change in living standards over the next decade, and poverty and hardship will be experienced by many.

UNEMPLOYMENT

There was also a lot of talk about unemployment. This is not surprising given that at the end of September the number of people officially unemployed was 131,800. This marked an increase of 3,000 over the figure for August and is the largest monthly rise in nearly a year.

At the conference it was predicted that by 1990 unemployment could be running at a rate of 25% with 300,000 on the dole.

These people will be expected to live on the poverty line. As was pointed out in the last Outta Control, inflation is now running at 20%. The recent increase of 3% in the dole did not compensate for this at all.

SOLUTIONS?

Unemployment poses a real threat to the Irish state (and other states too). Fitzgerald recognized this in his speech to the conference when he said that 'endemic unemployment will seriously disturb the stability of our society'. To him and his government it is vital that the unemployment problem is dealt with.

It seems that the old solution to the problem, emigration, is now being used as a safety valve. The 1981 census has revealed that emigration has been increasing since 1979.

But the unemployed can become a threat to the state itself (as Fitzgerald recognized) and need to be controlled. This explains, to a large extent, why the new government are continuing to recruit the 2,000 cops which the last government claimed were badly needed. The present government have put a ban on any new recruitment to the public service except for these cops. This helps to emphasize their importance.

FIGHTING BACK

As the unemployment problem is getting worse people are beginning to realise the necessity of fighting back. For this reason the Dublin Unemployment Action Group has been set up. The group is made up of unemployed people themselves, and recognises the importance of them taking up the fight.

The group wants to end the situation where unemployed people are expected to live on the poverty line. It hopes to start a campaign for free buses for those on the dole, and wants the Electricity Supply Board's workers to refuse to cut off those who cannot afford to pay their bills because they are on the dole. Also the group want to provide some kind of cheap entertainment for the unemployed by holding gigs etc. It also runs an information service for those claiming benefits.

In the speeches at the conference there was a lot of talk about pay restraint and increased taxation. Workers are being asked to make sacrifices and accept a lower standard of living to solve a problem which has been created by the bosses and the government.

There has also been talk about early retirement for those in the civil service. It is reckoned that this scheme could result in the creation of an extra 10,000 jobs in 1982. This does not come near the 17,000 that will be needed every year between now and 1991 if unemployment is not to rise ANY FURTHER. Anyway, retired and old people get a raw deal in this society. They are left to fend for themselves and survive on the pittance of a pension.

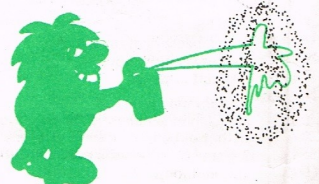
Next Question...
When is A civilian
Not A civilian?

"Civilian searchers in Belfast's central commercial zone have recieved instructions from the RUC not to allow young mods into the city centre.

In recent weeks, young mods, individually or in groups have been wandering around the town, meeting eachother and growing in numbers to 200 plus. A big problem for the RUC and their efforts to keep the large store owners happy, and to ensure that the "right sort" of consumers can consume without having to think.

Of course there have been a lot of inter-gang feuds which have scared a lot of people ... but it is difficult to justify the "they should be locked up attitude" which most people immediately adopt, which serves to give strength to the RUC'S heavy hands. Examples of toxteth and Brixton show that peoples needs only get noticed when the frustration of day to day drudgery becomes visible to all. Maybe the newly opened "A" Centre in Long Lane will provide a space for young people to use their time constructively.

The "legal" situation with "civilian" searchers is that if you permit them to search you they have no right to deny you access to the city centre....however it looks as if this is changing fast, and it is becoming more apparent that the city, and particularly the fenced off commercial zone does not belong to us.



Gaining Ground

OUTTA CONTROL
ANARCHA-FEMINIST NEWS

The right to vote, or equal civil rights, may be good demands, but true emancipation begins neither at the polls, nor in courts. It begins in woman's soul. History tells us that every oppressed class gained true liberation from its masters through its own efforts. It is necessary that woman learn that lesson, that she realise that her freedom will reach as far as her power to achieve her freedom reaches.
EMMA GOLDMAN 1911

Abortion

LOBBY AT WESTMINSTER



After the success of Geoff Dudgeon's case in Strasbourg for homosexual law reform last fortnight yet another liberalisation of social legislation will have to be extended to Northern Ireland, following reform of the divorce and domestic violence laws, even if the Queen of England did forget to mention it in her speech. The Strasbourg case has added a new dimension to the whole question of abortion here. It was claimed that as citizen of the United Kingdom a gay person was denied the same rights as gays living in the rest of the U.K. The parallel with abortion is obvious. A woman with an unwanted pregnancy cannot have an abortion here except in the most extreme of cases, be she certified or pleading insanity, the foetus is genetically malformed, she has had German measles or been in contact with them early in pregnancy or she is likely to die if she continues with the pregnancy. Not that abortion can be obtained on demand in Britain either but the passing of the 1967 Abortion Act has enabled women to obtain abortion for social reasons either on the National Health Service or through one of the charitable clinics.

The Northern Ireland Abortion Campaign has been organising for the last two years to have the 1967 Abortion Act extended to Northern Ireland as a minimum requirement in its fight for abortion on demand. Legalising abortion is seen as the only obvious and rational course of action in the short term....in the present socio-religious climate in Ireland we are not going to get anything better for sure! As part of the Northern Ireland Abortion Campaign, two women from Gaining Ground with the support of Irish sisters in Britain and here, ALRA and NAC, posted a coat hanger and an information card printed with an airline ticket, to every M.P. explaining that there were two ways in which women in Northern Ireland could obtain an abortion—on the backstreet risking sterility and death or by paying for a private abortion in England and the cost of the fare (up to £200) in one of the charitable clinics. Six hundred and thirty odd coat hangers (some very odd battered specimens) achieved the impact that they were designed for—that M.P.s of which a majority are pro-choice, should take notice of the fact that up to 3,000 women this year will travel to England for abortions and those who cannot afford to will resort to the backstreets.

Six of the envelopes were given to Jo Richardson, a prominent pro-choice M.P., to be delivered personally to the top dogs—Thatcher, Foot, Prior, Concannon and the Messrs. Paisley and Powell. Jo Richardson has pledged support to the campaign and another pro-choice M.P., Bob Crier attempted to raise a supplementary question during the debate on Northern Ireland that day. It should now be raised in this current session.

To have the law extended to Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Abortion Campaign is going to have to concentrate on British M.P.s. As far as our lot is concerned it is a dead loss. Opposition to any progressive social legislation has always been inevitable. The late M.P. for Fermanagh/South Tyrone, Frank Maguire, flew in to London specially to vote on the four or five occasions during his time against the 67 Act and any progressive amendments to it—so much for an abstentionist policy, he was well capable of accepting Westminster when it suited him, and although Jim Kilfedder is the only Northern Irish M.P. with an impeccable record on abortion he may well say one thing privately and another publicly (as what appears to have been the case over homosexuality law reform) or may even trade in his vote for some concession on "Ulster's security".

Straight press coverage in Northern Ireland particularly was good although what with the Beeb with their rent a speech demands at half and hours notice and the Belfast Telegraph, after breaking the embargo date (will they be receiving press statements in future?) being more concerned in creating scandal and rows between British Airways and the Northern Ireland Abortion Campaign for using a British Airways ticket on the information sent to M.P.s, as one of the ways in which women travel to England (and with the closing of the Liverpool ferry just about the only way). Something has to be said about the persistent harassment of women in the N.I.A.C. over this issue—are they that low on stories? However, the following day they did come out in favour of abortion law reform in their editorial plus a "much more effective programme of sex education in the schools, together with ready availability of contraceptives and greater financial assistance for mothers who decide to

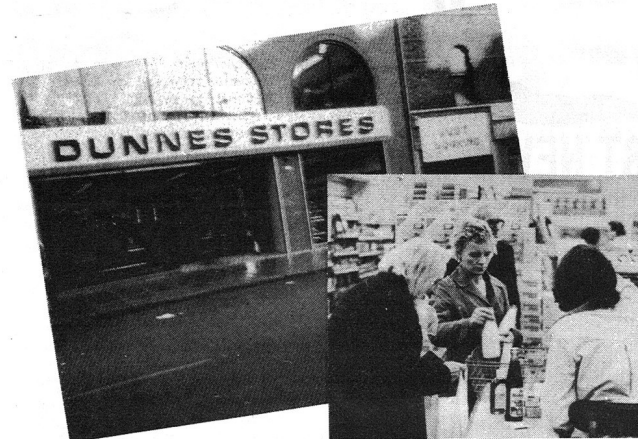
keep their babies". — a significant step outwards when one considers the taboo surrounding the subject less than five years ago. Views have changed and the subject is being discussed more and more openly. There are thousands of women in Ireland who have experienced that uphill struggle to get an abortion. Some women, like Lottie Hutton for example, have died horrific deaths after botched abortions. The arguments of LIFE and SPUC are not going to be strong enough to maintain the ban on abortion in Northern Ireland now that the ignorance is being dispelled.

Both the Abortion Law Reform Association and the National Abortion Campaign in London were tremendous in their support of the action. Both organisations have fairly recently included Northern Ireland in their aims and will support us in any future action that we decide to do. Added to this is a growing Irishwomens Support Group in London which is arranging help/support/accommodation for women from both North and South when they go to London for an abortion.

Whilst a change in the law will not change people's opinions, especially in the medical profession, —it may for instance, prove impossible to obtain an abortion on the NHS outside of Belfast—it will allow the charitable clinics to operate, it will mean that thousands of Northern and Southern Irish women coming north, will not have to make the often traumatic journey to England and in more enlightened conditions, we would hope that the whole question of abortion on demand, contraception, sexuality, childcare and single parenthood will be discussed and recognised as valid social issues.

Since we have come home there has been a letter from the Pro-Abortion Labour lobby (a group of M.P.s) who have pledged their support to the campaign.

DUNNES STORES— BETTER VALUE?



The Dunne family have been in the news a lot recently, with all the publicity surrounding the kidnapping and the dramatic release. Especially intriguing were the stories about the half million pounds that the police kept taking away. While you may have sympathy with any family in such a situation, it is instructive to look behind the headlines, at the Dunne family and the empire that they have built up, to the point where they can raise half a million pounds at such short notice.

The Dunes are selfmade millionaires. The father started in a small way, and eventually through various means built up a chain of stores rivalling British chains like Littlewoods, and Marks and Spencers, for markets in Ireland. They sell products cheaper than many other retail outlets, and have shares in many of the new big shopping precincts opening all over Ireland. It is only though in the last few years that they have ventured into the north.

Like all good businesses though they have not got to where they are now by running charities, they have built up a reputation for hardheadedness, in their dealings, and none more so than in the matter of employees.

The Dunes like to run things their way and new staff soon learn that what Dunnes say goes. One thing they say categorically is that joining a union is not on, and mention of it is likely to result in the sack. Work in shops has never been the best paid or the best conditions. Shop workers particularly in the lower levels i.e. on the floor or at registers are nearly always women. The work while not being dirty, is largely unskilled and very badly paid, this often means a high turnover in staff though with unemployment running as high as it is now most shop workers are holding on to their jobs no matter what the

conditions. Shops also employ a great deal of part-time workers again nearly all women, and these workers are perhaps the worst off of all in terms of conditions and benefits. In all shops most of the managerial staff are men and few women ever find themselves promoted from the shopfloor. Unionisation among shop workers is very poor, often because the workers are fragmented, and also because of the attitude of employers, in particular the big chains, women don't join out of fear. Consequently most of them do not possess even the limited protection afforded by union membership.

The new Dunnes store in North St is a case in point. The women there have complained of the conditions the they are forced to work in, this includes few breaks, and hard work as the place is not well staffed - a typical Dunne cost cutting move. As all of these women need their job and even the poor money it brings they are forced to put up with these conditions. But Dunes aren't the only people in town to take a dislike to the union. C&A also don't allow the union in their premises, like Marks and Spencers next door (who don't exactly ban the union but are not happy about it) they argue that they pay their workers above the union rates and so their is no need for complaint. Woolworths hold the same view, all these stores try to promote a family atmosphere in their shops, with the personnel managers acting as big daddies there to solve the childrens problems. As we all know though a good way to keep the workers in their place is to make them act as individuals, in unity lies strength and so they have to do everything they can to make sure that it can't exist, as usual its the women workers who suffer, and the bosses who live off the profits.



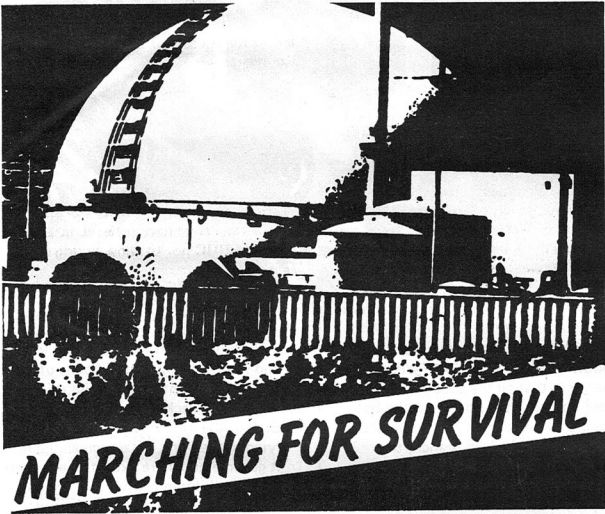
"Monday 1st - Started the New Year right did the washing, had to, the laundry basket is not a bottomless pit. Don't know how I found the strength to tackle the washing after grappling with a two stone, very determined Katie who seems to have half a dozen legs and four or five arms. She'd rather spend the whole day in a stinking nappy than go through the ordeal of a wash."

So begins Jane Bennett's diary of one year than forms the basis of Diane Harpwood's new novel "Tea and Tranquillisers", just published by Virago. Jane is married with two small children, and a very traditional husband, who is totally helpless when it comes to doing anything in the house. Jane and her family had to leave the north of England, and her family and friends when David found work in the south. Now resigned to spending a good deal of the rest of her life here she keeps a diary to stop her from going mad. In it she charts the day to day existence of a housewife coping with small children and with very little money - a constant source of friction between her and her husband. In the diary she describes with great feeling the utter monotony of her life. Everyday is the same to such an extent that picking her older daughter up from school becomes the high point of her days.

Later in the book David gets a better job with more money and the financial problems are lessened, but this doesn't change Jane's life that much. Diane Harpwood has captured well the existence of many young mothers and through the lives of the other women who live in the same estate as Jane has given us a picture of women's lives. The book is often very funny as Jane surveys her life with a great deal of wit, but there are also very sad moments, which are handled in a realistic and not a sentimental way. Diane Harpwood has denied that the book is in any way autobiographical, or that she is in any way in the situation that Jane is in, who she describes as 'a loser'. I find it hard to believe that anyone could write so convincingly had they in some ways experienced some of the trials of Jane.

A book well worth reading. It costs £2.95, and is available from Just Books, 7 Winetavern Street, Belfast.

Towards the end of the speeches at the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament march and rally in London on October 24th, we were told that the last of the march was entering Hyde Park. It had taken over five hours for the 250,000 people to march the three quarters of a mile from Victoria Embankment and even then the police had had to open up a second route in the afternoon to accommodate all the marchers. People had arrived from everywhere, from as far away as Shetland and Northern Ireland, from all sorts of backgrounds, groups, classes as the amazing banners proclaimed....mother and toddler groups, first generation CNDers singing the golden oldies, trade unionists, anarchists, lots of feminists in carnival originals of purple and green and CND groups from all and everywhere.



MARCHING FOR SURVIVAL

Ann Petit from the Women's Peace Camp also spoke. She was very repetitive and it was a shame that she sounded like Pam Ayres which led the group we were surrounded by to ridicule her, which belied the achievements that she and the fifty people, mostly women and several babies had made over the previous month. They had all walked from Wales to Greenham Common in Berkshire, a journey which had taken ten days. For many of them it had been their first taste of public protest. Greenham Common is the site where the first batch of Cruise missiles will be delivered in 1983. The women had chained themselves, suffragette style, to the fence at Greenham Common in an attempt to get a television debate going between them and the government, unsuccessful but they did get the local radio to interview them. The women have set up camp at Greenham Common, in tents at the moment, although they are hoping for caravans to come down and either join them or be left for them to live in, and for people

Everybody seemed to be under the impression that there was going to be a lot "on" when we reached Hyde Park, particularly lots of live music. But in the event none of the groups had been allowed to play inside the park—police orders—although the Jam set up at the Park gates as we all filed through to the street theatre and the street pedlars of badges, newspapers and leaflets. What should and could have been a dynamic afternoon dwindled in the end to applause or otherwise for the many speakers.

The main theme of most of the speeches was of organising, of reaching out to the apathetic masses and giving them a good shake before they slip into eternal sleep during world war three. Although there were big cheers for Tony Benn and E.P. Thompson, they didn't manage more than the usual rhetoric and to our minds the best speaker of the day was Petra Kelly, a libertarian and feminist from West Germany who told of the difficulties of organising in an occupied country which was also first on the hit list. She spoke of the non violence of Martin Luther King and of Gandhi, of the strength and power of their message in contrast to the insane and corrupt power of the warmongering patriarchy.

to move in onto the Common in protest and commute from there. The women had spoken at meetings all over the country and had marched for four days from the Common to London to join up with the CND march.

Ann Petit's speech emphasized the importance of grass roots support and activity. The CND march was an amazing show of support but how many of those quarter of a million people will spread the message in the community, in the shops, factories, pubs and streets where they came from? The straight media certainly didn't think it deserved a great deal of comment, particularly the telly. CND itself tends to put forward an apolitical image and channel people's energy and enthusiasm into meetings, resolutions and lobbyings of various political and religious dignitaries. This didn't work in the sixties and won't work today and with the whittling down of civil liberties, the experience gained by the State in Ireland and during the recent rioting in Britain means tougher opposition to any direct action taken in the future., for a campaign to disarm nuclear weapons is not an apolitical campaign, it is a rejection of a state which is preparing for war, and that total disarmament a revolutionary action.



NUCLEAR FREE ZONES

Derry District Council and their equivalent in Cork, have declared their areas "nuclear free zones".... a novel decision though radiation will hardly stop at the council boundary and it won't stop the mining companies if they find their uranium samples to be "satisfactory" (ie: profitable)... nor will it stop the Derry air base being used as a link in the nuclear bombing chain.

But an interesting decision none the less. Meanwhile a member of the Unionist Party Executive wants cruise missiles to be stationed in "Ulster". (Cruise missiles are the gift of Reagan and Co. to his western allies...so that nuclear war can be fought out in Europe without harming the USA).

The Unionists feel that cruise missiles will bring money, jobs and strengthen their somewhat shaky political position. Fools, undoubtedly, but dangerous onesand its people like them who are making the nuclear decisions in Britain, America and Russia. And it is such fools who have given the go-ahead for the huge nuclear underground complex being built at this moment in South Armagh near Forkhill. Daily—huge mahogany beams are being flown in by helicopter to strengthen the underground structure. Whether it will house nuclear missiles or merely serve as a hide out for top military and bureaucrats is as yet unknown. Its an official secret!

We were distressed to hear of the death of our friend and comrade Sylvia Jeffares who was knocked down and killed two weeks ago on her bike in London (Sunday 25th October), whilst visiting her friend in Broadmoor. We remember Sylvia for so many reasons, her expressiveness and sensitivity, her resistance to authority with its constraints and its conventions and her interest in Ireland over the last ten years and her support for the women in Armagh and prisoners in England. Our sympathy to all her friends and her daughter Eileen Rose.

A LIFE IN THE DAY OF....

In September a UDR man was shot at lunchtime outside a factory in West Belfast - this is one woman's account of that day.

7 am and the day starts as usual with the baby crying, who needs an alarm clock? Within minutes Karen who is three is also up and ready to go. I can't take on two at the same time, get up, go down and put the kettle on. Its really cold these mornings. Mike follows like an extra from nights of the living dead, but manages to hold the baby still so that not only can I make the breakfast, but his lunch as well.

Finally everyone fed, and Mike leaves. The prisoner of Zenda stays behind with her two torturers, at the rate they are going they'll be ready for Castle-reagh in no time. Make an attempt at cleaning up, and refereeing the battle at the same time - impossible. Decide to go out to the shops, not to buy anything its too near the end of the week but it does break the monotony. By 11.30 we're back and I have to think of lunch. We have soup, Karen goes to nursery for two blissful hours every day and if I'm very lucky the baby might sleep.

At 12.15 the electrician calls to read the meter, I complain about the price, he agrees and then tells me that we used the same as last year but the price is a lot different.

Loud bangs.....gunshots....I run to the door but a man opposite yells to get down. Get back inside with me the electrician and the two kids on the floor. Shooting goes on for what seems like forever, finally silence, I start to breathe again.... an ambulance arrives, the police, then running. Large black figures rumby screaming, one deposits itself at my feont door yelling 'shoot the fenian bastards, everyone of them', I panic, have we been taken over by the UDA/UVF? No its a friendly RUC man so much for the non-sectarian police force. It now sounds like the gunfight at the OK corral outside. It goes quiet, and the police come in just to make sure we're really cringing.

A UDR man has been shot at the top of the street, women are now shouting outside it seems that the police/army reckon as a result that anyone in the street is fair game. I go out to find Mary my next door neighbour hysterical. Her back door had been open so the police had run mad through her house yelling she was harbouring gunmen. At the same time another bunch had gone into the house opposite, and seeing a comotion in Mary's house had fired straight into her house, leaving her walls and wardrobe very airey—



how did they know she was having trouble with condensation? What also emerges is that all the shooting in the street had been the police - at the bottom plain clothes men had arrived, at the top the uniformed branch, they then proceeded to shoot each other, there were no casualties except all the people who lived in the street and their nerves.

The street starts to calm, women swoop babies and comfort each other. The electrician still lying on the floor rings in the central office, hes had enough, hes going home. Now the fun begins....search operation begins. Every house is to be searched by the police... they even empty my nappy bucket. Eventually though they go, its now 1.30, no point sending Karen to nursery, baby goes to sleep, and Mary comes in for a cup of tea. Door knock its the army, they want to search... same routine, they take everything out and I put it away again. They leave and we go back to the tea, door goes again, its the police, they want to search, I can't believe this my home is beginning to feel like the local barracks. They leave, and the door goes two more times before 3.00 - five searches in all. At 3.10 the door goes again - its the army, I've had enough, amazed at my own courage I tell them that they're not getting in and shut the door in their faces. After

a bit they go, and I settle the children, and send Mary for a half bottle of whiskey. Another loud noise this time at the back, I go out to find 6 Brits in the kitchen and my backdoor lying in the yard, I start screaming but it gets me no where except hoarse, and the two children crying. Finally the nappy bucket searched for the sixth time they leave, just as Mary gets back. Hot whiskies all round, bang goes this weeks family allowance. Mike made his own tea, and ours. Fell into bed about 8.00 with the kids. Just another day in Belfast.....

There will be an Abortion Conference on December 5th in Dublin either in Liberty Hall or Trinity. The conference is organised by the Womens' Right to Choose Group in Dublin and the Northern Ireland Abortion Campaign.

Workshops will include: Is Abortion a feminist issue? Anti-abortionists, North and South, Women and Poverty, Single Parents, Male Involvement—problems/responsibility, Sex education, If you want to go and you can offer transport or need transport please contact the women's centre 43363. Also if you need accommodation. There will be women going from Craigavon, Coleraine and Derry as well as Belfast. Posters will be ready soon. Watch out for details.

Also watch for posters advertising the benefit in aid of Northern Ireland Abortion Campaign.

ABORTION CONFERENCE ABORTION

outta control

News & Views of the Belfast Anarchist Collective

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW
MORE ABOUT THE BAC...
WRITE: BAC, c/o
7 WINETAVERN ST.,
BELFAST

OUTTA CONTROL... of the state, bosses, patriarchy, schooling, churches... As Anarchists we oppose the authority and exploitation of this society, and advocate one of free association and self-management. This paper comes out every four weeks and we welcome contributions, criticisms etc.

DUMPING WORKERS DUMPING WASTE

on thursday 19th November, 700 people marched through Newry. Their protest was aimed at the local Haughey clan member, Eddie, managing director of Norbrook Laboratories, who produce veterinary pharmaceuticals.

Haughey is a local self made capitalist who started his business in a Newry basement. With the aid of a LEDU award he has progressed to a large factory on the edge of the town, right beside the 800 house Derrybeg estate.

Last August, pissed off by the rough deal they were getting, Norbrook workers decided to join a union — the ITGWU. When Haughey heard of this, he laid off 7 of the "ringleaders". At 5:25 on the tuesday they were to hold their first meeting. The rest of the unionised workers decided to strike in support of their mates.

Haughey tried to counteract the strike by keeping on part-time student workers (mostly his own relations!) until the end of the holidays, and by bringing in scabs. The strikers are being supported by other unions, and very few raw materials are now getting into the factory.

Haugheys wife, who is a solicitor, applied for an injunction to stop the picketing, and judgement is still pending. Not satisfied with this, Haughey is still harassing the pickets in whatever ways possible. For example, one wet day the pickets wore rainproof jackets and leggings. He rang the RUC and told them that four members of a para-military organisation were outside his gate. The RUC came out to the picket line, had a laugh about it, and left. Then the picketers got a brazier together to keep warm. Haughey rang the RUC to complain about people lighting fires outside his gate. The RUC came out, warmed their hands, and left.

He has also taken to photographing anybody who stops to talk to the picketers and to taking their car registration numbers. This must be keeping him busy, as there is a lot of local support, including the train driver who passes every day, blows his whistle, and waves a clenched fist salute.

In September, some of the striking workers who were concerned with the disposal of Norbrooks waste, compiled a report to present to the District Council. Their disposal methods consisted of pouring

some of the wastes on a field between the factory and Derrybeg estate, and setting fire to it. The flames are said to be thick, black and foul smelling, and were carried by the wind into the houses. Other wastes were poured into a ditch in the same field. This ditch runs directly behind some of the houses. Both dumping and burning were regular occurrences.

The report also included evidence from a council driver who had seen a trailer load of waste from Norbrook being dumped in the council tip at Courtaney Hill, overlooking the town. The council had not been told that chemicals were being dumped onto the tip.

The report also states that the chemicals burnt and dumped include some which are highly inflammable and explosive, some which are poisonous when touched or inhaled, and some which cause cancer, including one called Nitrofurazone, which is so dangerous that it was taken out of production last year.

The report has been ignored by the council, whose engineer — a friend of Haughey — says that everything is alright.

So thats why 700 people came out to tell Haughey what they think, but it is highly unlikely that he cares. He recently sold his shares to a big Dutch company, whilst staying on as managing director, and building himself a swimming pool with part of the proceeds. Someone should dump nitrofurazone in it.

REPUBLICANISM

INTRODUCTION

We previously carried an article on Loyalism, and promised one on Republicanism. Here it is. We will later produce one on Anarchism.

THE NEW ADMINISTRATORS.

The centralisation of power, both in the resistance to the British and Orange state, and in proposals for a new Ireland are the product of an ideology — *Republicanism* — whose original purpose was to consolidate the power of the merchant and professional

CIVIL WAR-SORE

The military have taken over the governing of Poland, imposed martial law, and threatened to execute anyone who breaks the curfew.

The tensions within Polish society threatened the ruling bureaucracy, and the alliance with the USSR.

The rise of Solidarity was the result of released energy and self confidence. And despite the efforts of reformists in the CP, the catholic church, and careerists such as Lech Walesa with their attempts at channeling protests into national one day strikes and a national government (alliance between the above three), there have consistently been local initiatives at taking more control over work, distribution etc. These occupations and strikes were what threatened the bureaucracy and Russia.

Opposition to military rule is growing, and will have to confront the USSR eventually, if the self confidence of the working class and the disaffection by the 20,000 army conscripts (out of 100,000) proves too much for the Polish military.

We are angry!

This was the call from the roof of Crumlin Road Jail on the weekend of December 11 by Loyalist prisoners. They were protesting over conditions in the remand wing, and held four warders hostage. Thirteen Republicans barricaded themselves in their cells, though the protesters claimed to have them as hostages.

They had five demands, two of which were met within two days and the protest was called off. These two demands were for an enquiry into remand conditions, and the promise of constant pressure on the NIO by Loyalist politicians. DUPers, McGuaid and Robinson have taken up the case.

Two contrasts with the other prison protests are the almost total faith in politicians, and the taking of other prisoners as hostages.

class, and not the people of no property. The bourgeois of Ireland, though, have already established themselves comfortably in both states. The Republican leaders of today resemble more the administrators of a new Ireland. They have a contempt for the opportunism and exploitation by the bourgeoisie and want to create an independent socialist republic. It will though be of as much benefit to the people of no property as the bourgeois solution, still refusing us direct control over our economic and social lives.

continued next page

STATISM.

The other tradition in socialism is libertarian or Anarchist. That is the title of an article in a future issue.

FRENCH REVOLUTION.

Republicanism came to fruit in France in the 1790's, as the ideology of the bourgeoisie. They, along with the embryonic working class (the 'bras nus' - 'bare arms') deposed the old order of aristocratic and Church rule. On many occasions the 'bras nus' made independent demands, and fought for these through their political clubs and neighbourhood sections. But they had no generalised self-awareness, and no consistency in detailing their interests and putting forward their proposals.

This weakness was mainly because in this period of history, the working population was passing from feudalism to industrialism, from craft and tied labour to wage labour. On the other hand, the bourgeoisie knew clearly what they wanted – a state with political power in a centralised parliament to complement the economic power they already had in manufacturing, commerce and finance.

THE UNITED IRISHMEN.

This revolution influenced many people throughout the world who shared contempt for the arrogance, wealth and cruelty of the old order. But it was fundamentally a revolution to replace the aristocracy by the bourgeoisie.

In Ireland an organisation was set up mirroring the aims of the French Republicans. The United Irishmen were predominantly Presbyterians, of the merchant and professional class, who saw Britain's stranglehold on Ireland, and collusion by the Anglican ascendancy here, as severely limiting their own potential to build a prosperous economy and to create a political regime reflecting their interests.'

Just as Robespierre appealed to the 'Bras nus' to take up the fight against the hated aristocrats and church, so Wolf Tone appealed to the 'Men of no property' to help throw out the British. Tone's advocacy of ending persecution against the mass of poor 'catholic' peasants was to enhance the prospects of his class coming to power. He said, "As no change could make their political situation worse, I reckoned on their support as a certainty."

THE TRADITION CONTINUES.

Since the rising of 1798, most resistance to British control has adopted the ideology of Republicanism. Though the original Sinn Féin at the beginning of this century,

was monarchist, Griffiths and the others soon adopted the Republican aim of an independant bourgeois parliament as the sole expression of political power.

When the war of Independence broke out, it was fought mainly in the country areas between 1919 – 1921. Through industrialisation and the consequent labour disputes, the urban areas produced a syndicalist war with unions and employers in constant conflict, mainly in Belfast and Dublin. Despite the efforts in 1916 of the Irish Citizens Army, little contact between the traditions of Republicanism and Syndicalism took place. Inimportant exceptions were the general strike in Limerick against British Army occupation, and the dairy and flour soviets of Co. Clare.

There was a bitter Civil War after the signing of the treaty which left the six northern counties in the hands of the Unionist party, and the south still owing an allegiance to the monarchy. The anti-Treatyites were beaten with the help of British artillery, and they became the illegal IRA. Later they too split, when DeValera left and founded Fianna Fail, which soon became the most powerful political party in the South.



THE RESURGANCE.

Why did the resurgence of Republicanism take place after so many years of apparent insignificance? The Civil Rights movement which challenged the state was composed of many elements – Socialist, Liberal, Republican and even Anarchist. The Civil Rights movement failed to realise that this state was so corrupt and sectarian that it could not be reformed. The very creation of this state was the root of the problem. Republicanism had a tradition of opposing both the state and the British occupation, and eventually came into its own.

What gives the Republican groups prominence and makes them attractive to working class people is not their ideology, but their resistance to the present unjust, brutal and sectarian society. They are rooted in the anti-unionist farmlands and ghettos of the North, because these areas have suffered most of the discrimination and harassment of the British and Orange state. However, there were other groups such as Peoples' Democracy, who also developed an anti-imperialist approach. Some others even took up arms to defend areas against sectarian attacks. The IRA saw itself as more than a defense force. It regarded itself

as an army, the army of the Second Dail of 1918, the only 32 County elected Govt. As inheritor of that Governments authority, it's Army Council could tolerate no independent groups. Eg. A small revolutionary group in the Beechmount area was disarmed in the early '70's because they wouldn't accept the authority of the IRA. In effect, the only way to get guns for defence was to join the IRA and accept their orders.

The first split in the "present troubles" came about when the IRA was veering towards a Communist Party line. The traditional "anti-communism" combined with the urgency to get arms (finance being offered by members of Fianna Fail in the South) led to a breakaway which became the Provisionals. There was a further split from the Officials when those socialists discontented with the abandoning of anti-partitionist politics founded the IRSP.

The momentum of the struggle and its location in the industrial ghettos of the North gradually produced a more socialist critique, but only as part of an alliance with the traditionalists. Tensions have surfaced every so often, with the eventuality of a split dependant on time. These splits have always involved the question of who owns what guns, and led to bitter feuds over arms dumps and territory.

GUERRILLA CAMPAIGN.

Over this last decade, despite the courage and clear sightedness of the immediate political problem, the practice of Republican groups has often reflected the reactionary side of nationalism. While sectarianism must be confronted, and not wished away, the strategy and practice of Republicans often reflects a chauvinism of their own.

The military strategy of keeping the South a safe base, by not operating there, combined with a bombing campaign in the North and England with high civilian casualties, reflects a respect for "Irish capitalism" and a disdain for "Protestant" and British working class people.

HUNGER STRIKE.

While losing 10 of their best people, the Republican movements have gained publicity and support. There has been an increase of Recruits and finances to the IRA and INLA in response to the intransigence and repression of the British Government. Much of the media coverage has identified them, especially Sinn Fein/IRA as the sole protagonists in the protests. Through elections there are 2 IRSP councillors and one Sinn Fein MP (as well as two Peoples Democracy Councillors). It will be very interesting to see what social and political statements that Owen Carron produces now that the hunger strike is over. If Gerry Adams stands against Fitt in the next election, the new attitude in favour of electioneering might force SF to come up with proposals other than "Brits out".

The H Block/Armagh committee (dominated by Sinn Féin) concentrated on the lobbying of Priests and politicians, but it was these forces, by their manipulation, which helped defeat the hunger strike. This reveals a bankruptcy of political ideas. Republican News, whilst offering detailed reports of protests and the prisoners motives, made little or no attempt at analysing how the hunger strike

[illegible]

could have won, other than parroting the SF leaderships lobbying tactics.

SINN FEIN.

Since Octobers Ard Feis, there have been the beginnings of a series of articles in "Republican News" about "youth!" The second on 'Hoods' was the most interesting and explorative. But it stands in stark contrast to the practice and politics of SF. Joy Riders were described as having adopted the views of the British state in their definition of "criminal!" The authoress suggested that the young peoples crimes were as political as the Provos. While such Libertarian views are welcomed, they are to be seen in the context of Sinn Feins political ambitions. They want to replace the SDLP electorally as the leadership of the 'nationalist' community, as opposed to destroying the illusions of parliamentary politics. And to 'take power' (according to Morrison and Carron at the Ard Fheis), as opposed to destroying hierarchial and state power. A footnote on the first article on 'glue sniffing' described Anarchism as a mild English import. Republicans could be described as a bourgeois French import, in their proposals for state control of economic life.

IRSP.

The IRSP split from Official Sinn Fein on the grounds that the latter abandoned the 'national' question. They have a Marxist-Leninist vision of the future state, which is totalitarian. But they also boldly propose social changes such as abortion by choice, and are more secular in their opposition to the Church. However, being a party, they have a central authority like Sinn Fein, and also play the electoral game as a political expediency. Whilst their critique of the South is sharper than Sinn Feins there is no confrontation with that state, for much the same reasons as the Republican Movement. Despite a recent appeal to protestants to realise their class and Irish identity, a two-part article in the Starry Plough earlier this year, just about regarded all protestants as loyalists, and all Loyalists as Fascists.

LIBERATION

It is not the resistance to oppression which we criticise, but the nature of that resistance, the nature of these groups, and their prospects for a new society. And despite the political differences, we have supported those who have been imprisoned for that fight, and will continue to do so. That fight is not exclusive to one party or one movement, as the hunger strike campaign and everyday resistance show. They have no monopoly over our liberation from imperialism, and little contribution to our liberation from hierarchy.

An ill wind blows nogooders

Two 'representatives of the working class' have shared the company of such names as Cardinal O'Fiach and Roy Bradford in using the private hospital on the Malone Road. Well-known 'socialist' Paddy Devlin, and UDA Supremo Andy Tyrie have paid through the nose to benefit from a hospital which drains resources (in personel & facilities) from the Welfare State's equivalents.

don't like mondays

Walking away from the City Hall on Monday the 23rd. of November, Paisley's Day of Action, against the steady stream walking towards the City Hall remembering the old cliché, "Curiosity killed the cat!" Monday saw everyone having to come to terms with the protest. Will I work — won't I? In many ways a success for the Loyalists.

The Hype.

The City Hall rallies, all three, called by the Official Unionists, UDA and Paisley's DUP to coincide over a short period of time were confusing to say the least — Rows erupted — numbers were low. The biggest being Paisley's with no more than 5,000. In the country it was different, with cavalcades blocking off country towns and villages, snaking their way along, tooting their horns. Here the shutdown was more successful.

Newtownards on Monday night was the big one — the Third Force was to be on show. The final show of strength with the guns that never materialised. Paisley claimed leadership of the Protestant people, for that was what the day was all about — who heads the Unionist "family"?

Molyneux's days as leader of the Official Unionists are numbered. At every contest with Paisley over the round table talks with Atkins, Molyneux was left outside. On the Day of Action, Molyneux managed a small parade at the Cenotaph, while Paisley reviewed the Third Force at Newtownards.

The UDA were caught in the middle, not supporting the Day of Action, then calling their own protest with McCusker speaking — an unusual alliance indeed.

But whilst the division exists between the UDA and Paisley (the UDA calling for an independent Ulster, and Paisley fighting for the "historic" union to be maintained), Paisley sees clearly that the option of an independent Ulster with links with the South is more in order than the impossible Loyalist wet-dream of returning to a pre-'69 situation.

The DUP, however, are gaining maximum support by chanting, "no sell-out," and when the time suits them they will denounce the sincerity of the British Government and call for a "Protestant solution for a Protestant people!" Had Paisley kept to his Carson Trail time schedule, he would have declared a Provisional Government in Newtownards. Instead he chose to parade his Third Force, and declare himself Big Daddy of the Protestant people. If Paisley can go ahead with his plans, a declaration of UDI will come with time. The only problem will be to make the change in declared ends without his followers suspecting that something is up, and that big Dada is using them as expendable pawns.

Bradford's 'timely' death gave Paisley the burst of vitality that his Carson Trail needed. None the less, a lot of people from both "sides" found it impossible to shed tears over the death of such a notorious bigot, who "believed" that the Loyalist people of Ulster were a 'lost tribe', with the 6 counties as their God given homeland.

DO IT YOURSELF —
OR DO IT COLLECTIVELY —
BUT DON'T RELY ON
THE HOUSING EXEC.
TO DO IT FOR YOU!

Housing being what it is, and that's not much by the way the Housing Executive operate, is one of the most important needs for all of us, and bad houses don't make homes.

While the EEC grant of £400 million has been promised, many of us, especially those who need it, won't see any improvements in our homes, except being moved to another house, which is what the EEC want: split and divide the community, it's one sure way of stopping revolution/war/troubles/, call it what you want.

A sensible approach, one that anybody who calls himself an Anarchist should surely take, although I see no reason why anybody who doesn't call himself an Anarchist shouldn't take either, is to 'Do It Yourself'. Not dynamic politics, certainly not going to overthrow the system in the morning, but getting rid of damp, cold & draughts makes life that little bit easier. By doing it the 'alternative way' it is one step further in one's 'own personal development' - who said that?, for days to come when we do overthrow the system, state, etc., etc.

With Autumn ending, nature is storing up its last resources to get through the Winter. Plants are dying back, storing energy in the roots, wild animals are building themselves up and the Housing Executive shits who are always hoarding are hoarding even more - £400 million to be exact. The human race too, who at one time were not that far removed from nature and the elements, should also be preparing for the next few months.

Rubbish Skips are in bloom all over the city, offering a wealth of goodies, old & sometimes new. Up the Malone Road, for example, old carpets for blocking out the draught around doors (leave the top free for ventilation).

Wood in many forms, for the fire. Hardwood burns best. Usually very heavy, but sometimes you might find a really good piece for that much-needed bookshelf - which is another form of insulation. Softwood burns bright and sparkey, but for building purposes, essential.

Newspapers and sawdust/woodshavings, for attic insulation: lay layers of sawdust first, then the newspaper.

Clear plastic/clingfilm is good for double-glazing. Wash your windows first. This should be removable, as Summer is not long off.

Free 'Conservation Leaflets' can be got from the Coal, Gas & Electricity Boards & **Just Books** store some great books on DIY. Use imagination is the real answer to the problem. You may find that some alterations are not the most pleasing to look at, but I can safely say that it's nicer to keep warm and feel better than be cold and look nice.

And, after all that, if you still don't know where to start, cut a load of wood for some older person - maybe they might like that.

LIGHT UP AN EMBASSY!

The Embassy Twenty are the 20 people who were arrested and charged after the H-Block/Armagh March to the British Embassy on July 18th. The 20 have been charged under the Offences Against the State Act, and, if convicted, face between 2 and 7 years in prison.

A defence Campaign has been launched & a highly successful March was held in Dublin on the 7th of November. The first of the defendants will be tried on December 2nd. The others will be tried after Christmas.

The trial provides a great opportunity to attack the repressive institutions of the 'Free State', especially the Special Criminal Court. This Court is similar to the juryless Diplock Courts, and, increasingly, it is being used not only against so-called political people, but also against social offenders (see if you can think of a better phrase) It won't be long before this Court is used against workers fighting for their jobs and decent wages.

This Court is a political Court and is used to get rid of 'undesirable people'. These 20 people have been selectively charged. A lot of them have been centrally involved in the Campaign to win the 5 Demands. Also, they are being used as scapegoats. With the Coalition in power, an incident such as the Embassy March could not pass without somebody being done for it. Part of the Coalition's law and order strategy is to keep any resistance down.

Also, the national question is one area where Fitzgerald's legitimacy could be seriously undermined. He sees the anti-imperialist movement as a real threat and it must be stamped out. Thus we have increasing co-operation with the Brits around the whole area of security.

There are other elements to the campaign. People were being denied their 'right to protest' (as were the Belfast 34) by not being allowed to march past the Embassy. The marchers were deliberately provoked by the presence of so many cops. This showed us clearly whose side Fitzgerald is on. When people reacted to this provocation, they were mercilessly batoned. Cops went after everybody, including elderly people and children. How many of them were charged? Indeed, it seems that the cops are above the law.

The Defence of the Embassy 20 must be a political defence. Legally, in the Special Court, the state will use any evidence it wishes to. We must all, North and South, support the 20 as we did during the H Block Armagh campaign. We must focus on the Special Court and bring it into disrepute for being the circus it is.

The Defence Committee is looking for Statements from people who were present at the March. If you were with any of the defendants or saw Garda brutality, contact the Committee immediately. If you were assaulted, and can prove it, and are prepared to press charges against Gardai, we also need to hear from you. The Defence Committee can be contacted at:

30 Mountjoy Square, DUBLIN 1.
Tel: Dublin 747200.

PICKETS SENT TO JAIL!



On Tuesday Nov 10th eight Dublin workers were committed to jail by the High Court. they were found to be in contempt of court for refusing to obey a court order restraining them from picketing and trespassing at the factory where they work, Ault and Wiburg Ltd.

The workers had been occupying the factory after a six week dispute. The workers wanted to transfer from the Irish Transport and General Workers Union [ITGWU] to the more militant Automobile, General Engineering and Mechanical Operatives Union [AGEMOU]. Both the company and the ITGWU were refusing them their right to do this. The details of the dispute are not as important as the precedent that has been set by this case.

This is the first time since 1966 that an injunction has been enforced. Workers are being denied their so-called 'right to protest'. The injunction not only covered the occupation of the factory but also the pickets on the gate. Two workers were sent to jail just for picketing the factory. All the people that I talked to, who were involved in the dispute, did not seem to know on what grounds the injunction against picketing had been granted.

The case is particularly important if one looks at the economic situation in the South. With the recession getting worse, more and more jobs are going to be sacrificed. Any fight-back against redundancies could be squashed by the use of the Courts and prison.

Secondly, the fact that there is no National Understanding (the centralised agreement where bosses, government and unions decide on the size of wage increases) this year is significant. Already some unions have lodged claims for 20% increases. The bosses & government are totally against these kinds of rises. The Coalition Government has recommended that people should get a 6% increase. They will try to enforce this especially within the Public Sector. This case strengthens their position in trying to do this. As well as the threat of unemployment, workers now have the threat of jail hanging over them.

The workers spent only one night in jail and decided to pejure their contempt (say they were sorry) after the ITGWU said it would release them so that they could join the AGEMOU. When they did this they were treated with total contempt by the Court. The judge wanted them to beg while the Barrister for the company kept suggesting that they must have had a leader. In his eyes, workers are not capable of organising themselves. When they did say sorry and decided to go back to work they were then told there was no work for them. Of course there were still jobs available for the non-striking workers.

This case shows that the state is willing to use its repressive machinery to keep workers in line. This willingness can only increase as the recession gets worse. Workers and unions must realise this and start taking effective action to fight back now. If workers are jailed, strikes should be organised until they are released - and that's without being sorry for taking on the bosses.

STUFFING CHRISTMAS!

"Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat," and the turkeys, chickens, pheasants, deer, etc etc, ready for the mass slaughter that is part of what this "festive" season means for animal life. All over the country, animals and birds are being crowded into already cruel and intensive factory conditions, ready for the knife, or stun gun, or worse. Transportation becomes an even more oppressive facet of this trade of butchery, as birds are packed tightly into cages with no room to breath, resulting in even more distress - all in an atmosphere of pressure and competition, when handlers are more prone to abuse the life they are transporting. As if this were not enough to

add to the suffering, the traders in "pets" are stocking shops and breeding establishments, ready to sell their merchandise to any caller. Stock not sold is often abandoned, sent for slaughter or to vivisection and testing laboratories. Pets, bought as "toys" for households totally unprepared and uncaring, are often abandoned or thrown out onto the streets to die, when they have served their amusement value, or when people become bored or irritated by the new arrival making extra demands. Yes, Christmas is coming, and amongst the orgy of self-indulgence and consumerist values, we could well reflect on what it means for that most oppressed and powerless part of life on earth - the animal species.

POISON GIRLS

I saw you shove that hosepipe down your trousers so you can shiver with something to shake I'm gonna rip the buttons off your teeshirt I'M gonna peel the wrapper off your face Obsessive Sexuality.

Another first in Belfast! London based punk/Anarchist band "Poison Girls" will be playing at the Long Lane "A" Centre, on the afternoons of the 19th and 20th of December, along with Just Destiny, Stalag 17, The Defects and the Dogmatic E's!



Gaining Ground

OUTTA CONTROL ANARCHA-FEMINIST NEWS

ISSUE NUMBER TEN CHRISTMAS 1981

"the birth of a man who thinks
he's God isn't such a rare event"

Zoe Fairbairns



THATCHER HITS THE CHILDREN

The Belfast Education and Library Board has just released two 'discussion documents' about the future of both primary and secondary schools in the Belfast area. Although they are being presented for discussion it is clear that all the board's officers have given the proposals unanimous backing, so it is likely no matter the public response, that most of the proposals will be put into practice in the near future. The proposals deal only with the controlled schools, those owned and managed by the board, the maintained (Catholic), and the grammar schools are not as yet involved. What the board proposes to do is to close down 12 primary schools, 'reallocate' some nursery schools, and close about four secondary schools. The reason given for the closures are the falling rolls in Belfast schools in particular in the North and East of Belfast. The number of children has fallen by 40% in school since 1968, partly because of emigration from Belfast, but also due to a falling birth rate, (in Catholic schools the drop has only been 21%). According to the board many schools are becoming too small to provide adequate facilities for the pupils, and it is seemingly difficult to attract new

teachers to schools which are getting smaller and smaller, their solution then is to make plans for fewer schools with much larger rolls, hence giving children most opportunity for development.

There is of course another reason for the closures which don't have as much to do with concern for the pupils as with the dictates of the Thatcher government, namely the BELB have been asked to make a 2 million pound cut in their budget in the coming year and one way of cutting your budget is to close your schools. Obviously the fewer schools you have the less costs in terms of running. For example you need fewer caretakers, cleaners, and canteen staff. Your running bills are also smaller, heating, lighting and fuel. Of course you also need less teaching staff, and that's a big saving also. Given that in Northern Ireland the teacher-pupil ratio is higher than anywhere else in the UK, then a rise in this figure represents a loss to the children in these schools and not a gain as the BELB is trying to make out

Already there have been many protests against the proposed closure. One group of mothers who are losing their nursery - the McArthur on the Newto-

wnards Rd, have blocked the road and stopped traffic to bring attention to their situation. Women will in fact be the hardest hit by these closures because for many children they will mean more travelling and larger fares, and it will be their mothers who will have to deal with these. Some of the primary schools have nurseries included, and there has been no mention of their replacement in new schools, so childcare falls back on the mother. Many of the redundancies brought about by the closures will also involve women workers.

Another problem also not dealt with in the documents is the community focus of many of these schools that open their doors in the evening to community groups and activities, when the schools shut the BELB has no plans for their use on any other basis as they say the costs would be too high. At the bottom of the list come the children who will have to endure larger classes, less attention, bigger more anonymous schools, while the government continues to subsidise private education to the tune of £156 million per year. Its clear to see where the priorities lie!

CHRISTMAS IS COMING, SPEND, SPEND

In a particularly nasty piece of tokenism, Belfast Large Stores Association devised a "Sheltered Shopping Evening" for disabled shoppers, in November. Instead of using time, money and energy to make their establishments easily accessible at all times to the blind, deaf and otherwise physically disabled part of our community through more thoughtful design and adequate facilities, this

Association uses a public relations exercise as a token 'charitable' act. What in fact is 'charitable' about contributing to the alienation and separate-ness felt by many disabled people, by keeping them apart from the rest of the community and by using local party political figures to go walkabout among them, giving patronising chats to people who must be weary and angry at being treated

as 'different' or in need of 'sheltered' shopping? This propaganda exercise this advertising stunt, is certain to add weight to the coffers of the large stores and what is also certain is that in their consumerist greed, they will contribute to the anxiety already felt by physically disabled people who find themselves in a society that puts profits before a genuine concern for the less privileged.



CUT PRICE HOUSING

That there is a massive housing problem here with up to a third of the housing stock, sub standard must have sunk in just about everywhere and a few weeks ago the papers were full of the unprecedented EEC grant of £400 million to help finance new housing in Belfast on top of all the other grants coming from Westminster. So what exactly is being built, is it any better than the notable past disasters of Divis, Turf Lodge, and Shankill flats that working people have been forced to live in long after they should have been pulled down?

A half hour drive around Belfast should answer that one. You could live in York Street in a new house with easy access to the motorway—after you've scaled the ten foot wall outside your back door—applicants should be deaf and immune to lead pollution. Or a 2 or 3 bedroomed house in McClure St for those wanting to live parallel to a proposed major link road with the East, and a railway line—double glazing was thought to be unnecessary—or further down the road in a new house with a windowless bathroom, condensation and green mould. Families are living in so much worse that they are gratefully moving into these houses. A new house is seen as a fresh start and a social advance. It is an excuse to get new furniture, even at the risk of getting into debt, because the old is too shabby for a new house. After having lived, maybe all their lives, in damp, sub standard, overcrowded houses, everyone feels a

tremendous relief to get out, that being the tragedy of the situation. Designing houses, architects and planners follow the fashion of the times. High rise flats are out, in comes maisonettes and "village" type housing, in other words, small box houses with square rooms which encourage a cubic mentality—boxy sofas, boxy tables, boxy units, a uniform for the modern age.

Apart from the well cited observation that architects are usually men and can afford not to live in what they create, estates built in the last two decades lack the sense of community found in the terraced housing in the inner city. Much of this is explained by the fact that planning did not include shops, schools, health centres, doctors surgeries, recreational centres etc, as in Twinbrook for example, or was too heavily in favour of the motor car and like Craigavon, a large shopping block was built on its own outside the estates. Although housing standards are higher than they were in Victorian times, variety has disappeared, attics and cellars, five or more bedroomed houses are an exception and there is a cut down on space all round: this is likely to get worse with this government's intention to reduce the recommended minimum space and heating standards proposed by the Parker Morris Committee in 1961.

A few months ago, a woman with a large family was allocated two houses side by side to live in because nothing had been designed and built to suit her needs in the area. Houses are created for the ideal family; a neat unit of two

parents and two children, all able bodied father employed and mother in the home. That planners must know fewer people than ever fit this crude description does not stop them from designing these houses. Introduce children or old people or handicapped people and modern housing design falls short of the desirable!

Children for instance don't figure in the design. Their allocation is a small bedroom and our way of life makes all other areas technically out of bounds. The kitchen, that streamlined small space is used for storing and cooking food and messy activities like children baking cakes, painting, playing with water are more often than not, discouraged. The lounge is generally a bit of a showpiece. It is very much an adult area and the said adults get annoyed falling over umpteen bits of coloured plastic, cars, trains, balls, or children racing around playing hide and seek so tend to encourage more passive activities like drawing, reading books, watching television, building lego or playing with dolls. Adults, more particularly those without children, can take themselves off into town and go to a movie, shopping, swimming, drinking or whatever but children have to make their own entertainment within the confines of the home for much of the time.

The lack of child orientated space is frustrating even though most children are able to create the magic with fertile imaginations (and anything else they can get away with when you are not looking), it is also a strain on the parent, usually the mother, trying to keep some semblance of sanity about the place. It is not just a question of changing parental attitudes, the whole framework of the house is not suitable for children. They need more space, their own space which they would prefer to have anyway—and there needs to be much more emphasis placed on leisure activities outside the home, again mainly an adult preserve.



Houses should be built for the needs of the people who live in them, for the old, the handicapped, the single person, each house being integrated into the community and not having old people for example being shunted off into sheltered dwellings.

Housing, what goes into a house or doesn't and the surrounding environment is a perplexing subject for feminists. We don't want to reinforce ourselves in the role of housewife and carer of all things yet we do, want to end the repetitive drudgery which is the nature of housework. Work which is clearly seen as women's domain....

definitely another article here!

The poor quality of housing puts an extra burden on women who have to deal with the injuries and illness resulting from it, from the depression which isolation within the home can bring. Bad design, like the height of units and sinks results in bad backache, the problems of noise, the lack of insulation, the inability to control or pay for heating—some houses fall to bits if a certain temperature is not maintained—all these resound on the woman. More pressure is piled on because it should be possible to maintain a perfect home in a new house and to consume more and more labour 'saving' devices, in order to do so. Some do save time, others tend to create work in themselves. The sharing that went on in the terraced housing is seen as a sign of poverty so every house must have a vacuum cleaner, a washing machine, etc.... we have the technology to do almost everything—to throw the dirty washing down a chute and have it returned washed as one woman said—yet we persist in buying individual items like washing machines for our individual families. Such consumerism is forced upon us from all sides and without a change of planning and design where, what and how we are to live, we are not likely to see a chink in the chains. Communal utility rooms, canteens, creches, sitting rooms, play areas, afterschool services, teenage areas, communal transport, gardens, plots, verandahs, advice centres, law centres, meeting places, pubs, flix, shops, health centres, some of these can be found in or around inner city areas, all and more should be incorporated in the building of new housing—they are what changes a dead estate into a living imaginative community. People are not looking to live in houses encased in circuits of high speed roads, such designs are inhuman, they are looking to live in communities and houses that are designed for people.



Eulalia 1977

REVIEW



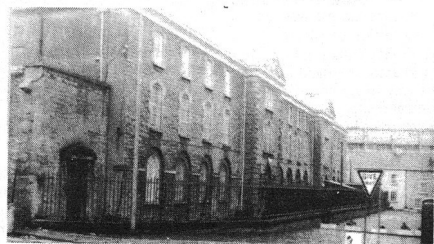
I started to read Margaretta D'Arcy's book 'Tell Them Everything' predisposed to disliking it. I had this bad reaction to the idea of an international playwright, sailing off to Armagh for a few months deprivation, and then returning to the real world, to tell her story, and incidentally make some money and get a lot of media attention out of it. That's how I approached the book, but by the end of the 122 pages I felt a lot different about D'Arcy, her motives, and I suppose about Armagh, if only in the sense that I felt I knew a bit more about the lives of the women who inhabit the cells of Armagh Prison. This is not the first book about Armagh, Nell McCafferty, and T.P. Coogan have both dealt with the subject, but it is the first one written by someone who has actually been serving a sentence in the prison, and so it goes deeper than anything I have read before. What D'Arcy does is to document the events leading up to her sentence in Armagh, and then to tell the story of her time in the prison among the republican prisoners there. At the time of her sentence these women were on the dirty protest and she chooses to join the protest with them. The book is a fairly honest account of one woman's coming to terms with all the paradoxes and contradictions that the political situation here throws up, and in particular the whole question of the relationship between feminism and republicanism, a sensitive subject with the women's movement in Ireland, and a constant point of conflict between them and the republican movement. She does not offer solutions, simply and very insightfully she points out clearly these paradoxes - she sees that Armagh is a feminist issue but ultimately that means no more than that, whilst she believes that feminists should be active in supporting their

sisters in Armagh she realises that many of those women are not interested in feminism nor even see the need for women to make demands in their own right. That all the women she spoke too saw their loyalty to the republican movement, and that many were very hostile to demands about abortion, or the family. She saw clearly that there was a huge gulf between herself and the women she shared cells with. Some commentators have argued that for these reasons she thought herself above the women but I think that to be a misreading of the text. She often speaks of their courage and their tenacity with admiration, and with love. She shows how in the context of the prison she the intellectual was incapable of answering the easiest of questions about current films or novels and was teased by the others as a moron most of the time, she shows how her awareness and experience of the world is not theirs and as such the book is always open and honest. She emerges at the end having spent months in dirt and filth with few answers, but with a total respect for the women she had spent her time with. If you wish to understand those women then you must read the book.

If on the other hand you want to understand nothing about Ireland, republicanism, and the women's



movement, and you also like reading dreadful novels then go out and buy 'Blood Sisters' by Valerie Miner, I would be paying it a compliment if I said it was awful - it is atrocious. Under researched, over-simplified, with poor characterisation, and badly written, the story tells of two cousins one an American feminist, the other a leading light in the London Provs. It goes downhill after that! Miner has tried to analyse the relationship between feminism and republicanism by taking a sledgehammer to it, the result is a disaster. If you're interested in the problem stick too Margaretta D'Arcy!



The Women's Right to Choose Group organised their first conference in the South of Ireland. About 80 women from the north and south met for a whole day on December 5th in Dublin's Liberty Hall, exchanging ideas and information, new strategies and working out how to get to each other. After the introduction by a given woman from the South report on the and a by a from the NIAC North, we in the split up into two workshops, one on the anti-abortion issue and the other on the question, "Is abortion a feminist issue?"

ANTI-ABORTIONISTS.

The anti-abortionists are much stronger in the South than in the North. They disrupt abortion meetings and hold pickets outside. Since feminists in the South started talking and working on the abortion issue the SPUCERS and LIFERS are slowly gaining new territory in the South of Ireland. Backed by the ever moralistic Catholic Church and by the Conservative government, all those groups like LIFE and SPUC are trying to prevent women having control over their own bodies by any means possible.

Through easy access to schools, parish halls etc, they continue unashamed to tell their lies (with distorted media like their films and pictures) that abortion is MURDER, and SEX IS A SIN. Not only are they against abortion, no they don't even give a fuck about sex education, contraception or housing for single pregnant women. They are going to build one of their shelters in the South. If it looks at first sight very good of them to build a house where single and unmarried women can stay when they are pregnant and after they have given birth, it's worth remembering that the option that they give you is either to get the child adopted, or if you keep the child they kick you out.

IS ABORTION A FEMINIST ISSUE.

Most of the women agreed that the struggle for the right to choose is a fight for and supported by feminists. If a woman wants to control her own life and body, she needs to have control over her own fertility, needless to say control whether or not or when to have children. It's the doctors,

the government and the clergymen in this male dominated society who are stopping women from having the choice of abortion.

In the afternoon session there was discussion and talk about post-coital contraceptives, abortion rights in Ireland, single parents and male involvement in the struggle.

Doctor Pete Brown, a gynaecologist and lecturer in human reproduction at Birmingham University gave widespread information on post-coital contraceptives, such as tablets for oral contraceptives to be taken within 72 hours after suspected conception, or other new methods such as Vitamin C, various herbal remedies and menstrual extractions. Post-coital contraceptives are taken after unprotected intercourse, and before its known that conception has occurred. As there are at present no contraceptives freely available in the South, except if you are married and even then only on prescription, it seems like a long time yet before post-coital contraceptives are available, as like abortion they prevent a full pregnancy once conception has occurred. And the conservative forces won't be quiet.

THE SPY IN THE EYE.

To get into the abortion conference you had to literally beat your way through a fanatic crowd of men, charismatics and bitter women (SPUC (Society for the protection of the unborn child) and LIFE) who came picketing outside all day. They must have nothing else to do!

In the afternoon we all had great fun recognising Aretta Brown — a SPUC-woman and well known anti-abortionist. She wouldn't admit who she was until some woman thought it a bit much and tore her ridiculous purple wig off. The embarrassed woman fled, swearing to send us to 'hell'! — We assume she is still anti-abortion, although she was very keen on telling us that she signed the pro-choice petition. Near the end, the picketers made their way downstairs, with crosses, rosary beads, singing "Abortion is murder!"

But maybe it was a good sign for the future of the abortion campaign that the women in the conference ploughed on through unperturbed — showing them up to be what they are

Women expressed the need for more cooperation between North and South to strengthen the movement in the fight for legal abortion.

There needs to be a lot of work done by women in the South such as campaigning the issue, given what they are up against and I hope that the conference helped to create stronger unity between sisters in the North and South and with more co-operation will strengthen the movement for safe and legal abortion on demand

REVIEW OF FRENCH LIEUTENANT'S WOMAN

As I had anticipated, the recently released film version of John Fowles' novel "The French Lieutenant's Woman" is a visual treat, and after a long period of almost unrelieved city living, I went along to see the film partly for that quality alone.

The evocation of period atmosphere and detail is excellent, particularly in the sharp division between life as lived in Victorian London "Club Lane" and that in the slums. I was also interested to see how well the film interpreted the splendid novel, but in this respect success was not so easily won. The addition of a 20th century story line—that of the relationship between actress and actor involved in the filming and of the way in which involvement with the central characters of the novel came to affect their lives—did not help, as it detracted (in a rather trivial way) from the intricacies and subtleties of Fowles' work.

The character of the title, Sarah Woodruff is a complex and a remote one—remote

from her contemporaries and remote from us. Grippled by melancholy, longing and the knowledge that she is "different" from other women of her time, conscious of the fact that she is "a remarkable person" (as she at one time admits), she spends hours alone on the Dorset coastline, staring to the south. Fowles describes her face as "certainly not a beautiful face, by any period's standards or taste". But it was an unforgettable face, and a tragic face. Its sorrow welled out of it as purely, naturally and unstoppably as water out of a woodland spring. There was no artifice there, no hypocrisy, no hysteria, no mask; and above all no sign of madness". In this respect, Meryl Streep's own beautiful face was a traitor to her in the role of Sarah, although her excellent acting ability helped to convey some of the character's prim madness.

Charles Smithson, the other central figure in the book, is reduced to a pale shadow of Fowles' art by the film's screenplay and direction. Anyone looking for the

tortured academic mind, the dutiful conforming gentleman of Victorian England gripped in genteel chains of sexual repression will be disappointed. The film does not do much to express his real fears and dilemma—his realisation of the truth of Darwin's theory of the survival of the fittest, and the ability to change and to adapt, and his own fear to do just that. Faced with desire for and love for Sarah, he buys his way out with cash and cowardice.

Whilst adequate in itself, in terms of visual brilliance and an adequate screenplay, the film does nothing more than introduce the story to those previously unfamiliar with it and acts as a reminder to those who read the book some time ago. I advise those who know the novel well, and who respect its intentions, to avoid this film, but for those who require only introduction to or reminder of this story of one woman's liberation from the sexual and social oppression of her time, then this is a beautiful and haunting film that will serve them well.

outta control

BELFAST ANARCHIST MONTHLY

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ISSUE TWENTY THREE

JANUARY 1982

Ireland 10p Outside Ireland 20p



The DeLorean car plant in Dunmurry has now ended its three day week, which it had blamed on the Sealink strike. That parts were delayed because of the strike and lead to short time is now questionable, as 400 of the 2000 remain on part-time, working week about. The crisis lies deeper.

Basically, the British Government has said that the £70 million they have given De Lorean is ALL that they are going to get. De Lorean needs another £40 million 'just to survive'. According to De Lorean, to 'survive' he needs to develop the saloon model of the car as well, which requires a further £80 m. in investment.

After trying to raise the money in the US, with the Stock Market, who chased him, it seems that he will have to go to the Government for it - IF they cough up, it will, in fact, be against their own policy. If NOT, his only alternative is to take on a

new partner, but then the British stake in the profit falls - after them bearing the risk. The most probable solution is that the state will give the £40 million, De Lorean will get the money, then close down (as the market he is aiming at fell by 11% and is still falling), thus making a tidy heap. The 2,000 workers are then tossed on to the dole. Don't believe me ??

- Six months ago (as mentioned in OUTTA CONTROL), a smaller firm called Euro-weld received a grant of £1.5 million, and the aspiring US multi-national *cleared out in a matter of days*. The workers occupied and attempted to set up a workers' co-op, the union promptly sold them down the drain, did NOTHING to support, and even went out of their way to block the occupation !

- SO, the De Lorean workers better watch out, for there are a lot of people willing to sell them out !



Her Majesty's Pleasure

Crumlin Road on a cold, icy January morning. Crumlin Road Prison is strategically situated - next door a hospital for birth, a court directly opposite for sentencing, and a graveyard fifty yards away for death.

Most of the inmates of the prison are either Loyalists or Republicans on remand. A prisoner can be kept there for anything from a few months to a couple of years on very scant 'evidence'. This remanding process is a mere formality of the new interment.

contd. next page

BROADCASTING TO DIVIDE THE COMMUNITY

You will never have seen this man appear on TV, but yet James Hawthorne is the Northern Ireland BBC Controller who decides what we will see and hear daily.



Ulster born James Hawthorne, in a recent lecture in the Polytechnic, states he was brought up into "...one particular tribe, the majority tribe", as he delicately puts it. He views his Loyalist position as one simply of wanting to remain part of Britain and a problem of identity in feeling that the mainland, although repeatedly stating that Ulster is British, does not give it the priority it should if events here were happening in the nation as a whole.

However, in that Loyalist philosophy he conveniently ignores what the connection leads to. The long loyalist tradition which, through corruption, exploitation, discrimination and violence (with Britain's backing) retains the position of privilege and power over Catholics and Protestants who realise the anti-working class nature of loyalism.

WHOSE NEWS ?

Hawthorne declares that, "journalism depends on what people tell us is happening." But how many times have you seen a BBC reporter on the scene, asking local people what happened and giving their version the same weight as the Army, Police or State story?

A BBC Television News Sub-Editor is quoted as saying, "I have always assumed the official line is we put the Army's version first and then any other."

Hawthorne complains that during "the Bobby Sands affair," "One of the real difficulties was the lack of willingness of what I am going to call the Government side to take part in broadcasts. They were broadcasting to America - under pressure. They were briefing American and foreign journalists. They were not briefing home journalists. And yet there was a welter of views and opinions and statements representing the other side of the argument."

Obviously the State feels the BBC could be sufficiently relied on to adequately present their views (although Hawthorne regrettably feels the Republicans won the day) but the foreign press who were not easily controlled needed special effort

contd. back page

WAINING CREDIBILITY.

Dick Francis, the overall Current Affairs Controller in the BBC will occasionally let Republican attitudes slip through to give the illusion of "balance", such as the Panorama film of the IRA roadblock in Carrickmore (only to be threatened ominously that it was time the BBC put it's "house in order" by both Thatcher and Callaghan).

NO CHINKS.

Not so our own homegrown Controller. When James Hawthorne arrived back in Belfast from Britain to work for the BBC he refused to live in the Malone Road. This was too near to Andersonstown and the possibility of being kidnapped. Instead, he and his family were put up in a four star hotel at a cost of £500 per week for a year until he eventually found a house in the Golden Mile ghetto of Co. Down where the real wealth can be found (a garage for the car and one for the yacht!).

contd. from front page.

The prison itself differs greatly from the more recent confines of Long Kesh, a hasty yet highly secure construction of corrugated iron fences and barbed wire. The 'Crum' is hundreds of years old, with medieval stone walls, portcullis, spy-posts, long grey corridors, courtyards and all it's filth.

The waiting room is packed. Most of the visitors are women waiting to see husbands, sons or boyfriends. Many are visibly under a high degree of stress, shaking hands, short nervous glances, shouting at the kids who don't fully understand what's going on, or that the ritual of prison visits has only just begun for them.

A thorough search and into the second waiting room.

This is an under heated, grotty dungeon-like affair — thick stone walls, barred windows and a barred door, which gives you the very real impression of being caged in. No-one talks. Kids run around. No-one enjoys the experience of visiting, the interminable waiting, being constantly under surveillance and lock and key, heavy searches and jibes from the screws turn the whole affair sour, as this process has been designed to do.

Another way in which the prison authorities attempt to break the individuals morale is through the policy of shifting prisoners from Belfast to Derry (magilligan camp) and from Derry to Belfast — this means that people have to spend the whole day travelling in order to visit a friend or relative, hence visits can become less frequent.



Across a small grey courtyard under guard, and into a large Portacabin, which contains about twenty small cubicles. People speak in hushed tones, screws wander around at whim, watching and listening in on 'private' conversations, no privacy whatsoever — the intimacy of a close relationship being impossible to retain.

Conversation on the two different worlds — inside/out. Inside: Loyalist "supergrass" has been given a portable television for his cell/ Loyalist prisoners recieved six hours of association on Christmas day, Republicans half of that/ freezing cold in the cells/ tales of endless remand court appearances/ a particularly vindictive screw is pointed out.

The visit ends, and as you pass the army patrols swarming around the outer perimeters of the prison, you realise that you haven't been able to say half of what you wanted to, and that under these conditions it will, inevitably, be impossible — such is Her Majesties Pleasure.



Their single is available at JUST BOOKS.

There are quite a few 'alternative' singles in Belfast at the moment, though most of them have been out for some time. Originally encouraged by the efforts of Good Vibrations (who have dozens of demo-tapes, but no money!) and a few other enterprising, sympathetic souls. But it's difficult - fortunes are not to be made on the alternative record market, and recording studio prices / cost of pressing singles is prohibitive. The days of the Virgin-hype are gone and if your songs are 'political' (i.e. real), they never existed! So, a new single just out from the DEFECTS is more than welcome on so many levels.

3 songs.. 'Dance til you Drop' (about glue-sniffing in the subways), 'Guilty Conscience' (about all the unemployed people) 'Brutality' (about the RUC).

The DEFECTS brought the single out with their own money. They have a bill of

£1000 for 2000 copies. It was recorded at the local commercial radio recording studio and pressed in England. They had to book the studio, and all they could scrape together on the day was £100 which 'bought' them 4½ hours of studio time and a load of hassles. They don't expect too much Air-Play, particularly of 'Brutality'..... the only way people will get to hear the single is at Punk discos and places like Just Books. (Will John Peel play SS-RUC on the BBC?) Not surprisingly, the DEFECTS have no gigs lined up.... until a permanent alternative venue exists, no-one wants to know.

'Dance Til You Drop' :-

'Way on down in screaming hell
A place that I see every night
The same familiar faces
Always looking for a fight
They appear at unchanged places
Creating Anarchy
Frustration from the other faces
Watching such insanity
Dance, dance, til they drop.'

'Brutality'

'They take you down to Castlereagh
You didn't think you were here to stay
They put you up against the wall
Kicked you stupid til you fall
What the hell did I do wrong
I must have stood on the corner too long
Get in the back, they said to me
You're just the bastards from RUC.
Brutality - what do you say
Brutality - is here to stay
Brutality - what a threat
Brutality - it'll get you yet
SS-RUC SS-RUC SS-RUC.'

Nuclear Threat and...

Omagh District Council have just decided to declare their area a 'nuclear-free zone', after they learned that the USSR had taken note of it as a uranium site.

During '75/'76, a Canadian-based Uranium prospecting company spent time taking soil samples in the Fintona area, in an attempt to monitor the uranium content of the soil; and, if you talk to any local, you will learn that they seem to have found what they were looking for.

Not too far away from Fintona, at San Angelo, a little used commercial airfield, there are plans of siting a Radar Dispersal point - part of NATO's Nuclear Strategy. The Post Office Trunk cable, containing the civil defences communications system, passes through also.

Uranium, wanted by the EEC, Radar Stations, wanted by the British Government and US military machines, means only disadvantages for the people of Omagh. Poisonous waste from mining, and an immediate launch into a dangerous world nuclear game (of which, incidentally, Derry has also opted out recently) - this is what is involved. Surprisingly, or maybe not so, it has been the Unionist family in both districts who have been opposed to nuclear-free districts. Maybe they just feel more British than the British.

... Chemical

The industrial plague in the form of asbestos has already killed many Belfast workers. A series of studies of 252 asbestos insulation workers in Belfast (1940-1975) found that by the end of 1975 there were 40 survivors instead of an expected 108. Until 1965 there was an excess of deaths due to asbestos with or without tuberculosis, alimentary cancer, bronchial carcinoma & mesothelioma. The death rate among survivors from 1965 on is lower, but there is still a marked excess of deaths from bronchial cancer and mesothelioma. Ireland has had more than its share of exported noxious industries. Policy amongst the large noxious industries is that when they are told to cease production of a substance in one country because of the dangers involved, they will shift production to another country where the restrictions aren't so great.

DUMETCO, a Dutch lead processing firm has recently set up in Tallaght after opposition to plans for expansion in Holland: Raybestos Manhattan, an asbestos plant moved to Co. Cork after law suits and public investigations into their affairs in the USA; BF Goodrich set up a vinyl chloride plant in Ardee, Co. Louth in 1978; Asahi, a Japanese company using acrylonitrile set up in Co. Mayo; as a final example, Eli Lilly set up in Co. Cork, are dumping all sorts of chemicals into the Atlantic Ocean and air around Kinsale.

CAROLINE MUSIC SINKS!
THE AN ST. BUNCH WERE GIVEN POSTERS FOR PUNK GIGS ONLY BUT OF THE PUNKS WHO WERE ASKED TO PUT THEM IN, ONLY ONE DID IT.

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NIGRA REPLY

In issue No.21 of OUTTA CONTROL.. you carried an article by Padraig O'Flaithimh and Robin Gibson called 'Gays for Self-Determination'. NIGRA and the Strasbourg case are mentioned in the article. Robin and Padraig state that the Strasbourg case was a failure, because O'Flaithimh and Paisley have 'saved Ulster from Sodomy'. As the judgement is only just about a month old, they do seem to be a bit premature. By the way, Padraig and Robin would still like everybody else to assume O'Flaich was neutral if NIGRA hadn't blown his cover.

The writers go on to say that we recognise Westminster's 'alleged' right to legislate for the province. There is nothing fictional about Westminster's right to make laws for Northern Ireland. It is based on its monopoly of the means of coercion. It is also based on the fact that the majority of the inhabitants connive in Westminster's rule. If you don't oppose the state 24 hours a day, you are, to a greater or lesser extent, collaborating with the forces of law and order. This is true of every state, not just the United Kingdom.

O'Flaithimh and Gibson say NIGRA has 'alienated' nationalist homosexuals. If they are using nationalist as a code-word for R.C., this statement can be demonstrated to be not true. If they mean people who aspire to a Dublin-run all-island state, this, again, is untrue. NIGRA never said that the British Army should remain on the streets of Northern Ireland, it simply pointed out the alternatives: the Irish Army could not control N.I., neither could the Republican underground armies. The only real alternative is some sort of Loyalist armed force under the Ayatollah, who will have been proved a prophet. Is this what the authors want?

They go on to mention 'Unionist misrule', as Stormont (old-style) was kicked into touch in 1972 and NIGRA wasn't formed until 1974 - this does seem like a pointless exercise. Should we discuss the past just because it is there; like a mountaineer confronted with Everest?

The writers' exposition of the exploitative nature of the 'holy family' is fairly standard radical socio-political stuff, except that it fits the Republic of Ireland rather than any part of the U.K.. (N.I. has had liberal divorce laws since 1978, probably traded against Homosexual Law Reform). Also, we would argue that capitalism does not need patriarchy, and may find it a bind, but that is rather arcane.

What is likely to happen in the case of gay (male) law reform is that it will be traded off against Abortion on Demand, or just Abortion. The O'Flaich/Paisley alliance will then be seen in all its unsavoury dimensions. NIGRA unambiguously supports the demand for abortion on demand, and for the right of all women and men to dispose of their bodies how they will.

Sean McGouran
Secretary, NIGRA.

What Did You Do When the Centre Was Going, Dear?

So the A Centre is shut - for now at least. Two months of non-stop Saturday energy-multi-media/multi-coloured entertainment in Belfast City Centre that no-one could turn down or slow up.

It was an experiment in a way, and one that showed the possibilities and potentialities for young people in our priest-ridden, ministered, policed, occupied, over-priced, no-work society. Entertainment by ourselves for ourselves.

What was it? Nothing much really, just a few local bands, a few films, slides but perhaps the most imaginative public venture in Belfast City Centre ever! And the reason was simple - it was outside and beyond the control of every sort of authority it showed that people *can* get something together outside of state control and the clever men of rock and roll.....without being exploitative in any way.

Punks mainly, came along notorious amongst police and managers for all imagin-
contd.next column

able anti-social behaviour ... and gave as well as took. In two months there was never a hint of trouble, of violence....real hassles were confined to increasingly frequent uniformed visits who found it difficult to understand why *NO-ONE* there welcomed their presence. SS RUC is a local punk anthem and punks should know. Every week there was something different but always a good vegetarian cafe, a mixture of local bands, films, decorations, humour, free literature, local on-the-spot improvisation-at-the-microphone-etc. It was 'high energy' ... it showed just what underground music exists in Belfast ... a host of bands played ... direct from the dole queue as often as not, often with only makeshift and borrowed equipment. But a determination and level of excitement never ever to be seen on 'Top of the Pops'. And variety..... from 'improvised electronic musik' to Belfast Punk. And without the cliches and false hypes of the written music industry - there *IS* something there. No-one left dis-



appointed.

Two other events took place during the 2 months. A Womens Benefit and JB Party.. each memorable in their own way. And of course there were problems (but the Sunday Spews - naturally - got it ALL wrong) ... the premises weren't ours, we had to decorate them, enjoy it, then clear it all up to pretend it hadn't happened; we had to

scrounge, beg, borrow the P.A. and other technical and video equipment... all time-consuming, nitty-gritty work... which inevitably meant less time putting our ideas and energies into the event. In the end it was too much work for too few people.

We need our own premises, our own spaceand for that we need a lot of money.

So this is no obituary.



A very special thanks to Good Vibrations for lending us the P.A.

LEADERS' LOGIC!

Lord Gowrie says, Direct rule is imperial and un-British, and absolute power is embarrassing!

Conor Cruise O'Brien, ex Labour minister in the South, chief keeper of Ireland's colonialist conscience, and our leading liberal light, has one main New Year Resolution - 'An end to political violence, with, if necessary, the simultaneous introduction of Internment, North and South' !!

ANTHONY WAS MURDERED.

Anthony McCleave died in June '79 in Oxford Street. On 5th January this year, at the County Court, his sister was awarded £3500 criminal injuries compensation, but Judge Higgins knocked off 10% for 'contributory negligence' as McCleave May have been out 'coasting' and may have propositioned someone who objected. NIO Barrister agreed with Judge that gays must be protected on the streets and would be awarded criminal injuries if assaulted. The NIO tried to maintain that McCleave's death was the result of an accidental 'fall', but the Judge stated that the injuries were obviously the consequence of an assault.

DRAWING THE DOLE?

ART WORK by unemployed people ... a short exhibition is showing at the Crescent Resources Centre in January. More offerings are needed, ... get in touch with Ken via the centre, Lower Crescent, University Road, Belfast. Some of the work will be on the walls of the Just Books Cafe in February.

contd. from front page

He complains, "Is it not the job of the Authorities to generate much more material?" despite the sophisticated Army information and 'psy-ops' unit which in 1976 numbered 40 Press Officers and 100 "other staff" providing the fodder.

Hawthorne says, "As late as 1947, it was BBC policy 'not to admit any attack on the constitutional position of Northern Ireland' " which shows that the BBC from its beginning acts on behalf of the state and isn't the impartial, unbiased news reporter that it likes to project.

REWRITING HISTORY.

A recent schools broadcast on the fall of Stormont was more or less illustrated by pompous and righteous speeches from Loyalist politicians in Parliament during the last days of Stormont. It gave no indication as to the real reasons for its fall as expressed through the people who helped bring it down.

WHOSE CULTURE?

Hawthorne further states:

"...it fell to the BBC to discover, define and develop a whole cultural character for Northern Ireland, a culture which was to become a norm for broadcasting."

The BBC censored and ignored the long, long tradition of working class and cultural resistance and instead imposed

a British/world culture based on perpetuating and reinforcing the authority, power and privilege of a few.

ANTI WORKING CLASS.

Given the innocuous folk programme, "As I roved out", produced by Tony McAuley, who was called to task when he presented an old working class well respected traditional singer, George Hanna (complete with cloth cap), Hawthorne wanted to know at the annual BBC inquisition of employees, from Roisin McAuley, why her husband had put on this toothless old bore and regards traditional music as fiddle-de-de stuff, and not what the BBC should be broadcasting to reflect Irish culture.

David Hammond, employed by the BBC for many years, because of his interest in promoting the romanticisation of working class life, has been refused promotion to head of the department, the job given to a polytech lecturer who had no previous experience in television.

Here's Jimmy's idea of a good cultural programme;

"The opening of the extension of Belfast Cathedral was the sort of good news that people were looking for, and, using that event, we mounted no fewer than four BBC Television outside broadcasts, three of them for the network."

Great stuff!

HACK OF THE YEAR

The Sunday News must rate as the worst local newspaper around for 6 days a week the Newsletter spews out its traditional sectarian bigotry masquerading as 'news' ... then, on a Sunday, changes its name and its 'direction' to produce the Sunday Spews. Being the only local Sunday newspaper, its owners (the Henderson family) were quick to see the money to be had by appealing to 'both sides' on the Sabbath. So, they dish up their weekly offering of mild pornography, invented lead stories, and page after page of advertising. It makes money for Henderson, and employs a handful of hack journalists who'd otherwise be on the dole.

(Two years ago, for unexplained reasons, all the journalists with even a degree of integrity, told Henderson to 'fuck off' and left the paper.)

Story, and headline, of the year so far goes to Neil Mulholland.....'Anarchist Centre Closes in Glue-Sniffing Scandal: Utter Chaos at City Punk Club'. Just a stream of vindictive inaccuracies and lies, for which Mr. Mulholland will no doubt, some day soon receive his karma. For the record, the Centre was NOT closed because of the glue; there were NO babies on mothers' knees sniffing glue; bands did NOT describe the scene as utter chaos; NO unconscious kids were carried out feet first; NO vomit was all over the floor; NOTHING could make the Pound look like a Palace !; the temporary arrangement with the building-owners was NOT withdrawn; the place was NOT wrecked; pogo-ing did NOT wear out the floorboards (!), and, lastly, the Technical Services Department were NOT launching an investigation. An investigation IS being launched, though, to discover how Mulholland got his NUJ card, and as to how he can afford to spend so much time and money in Kelly's Bar.



Pennies from Heaven

We're getting an extra £90 million !!

Mr. Prior has pleaded our 'special case', & we've been given special status. Don't be sarcastic, now ! £90 million is £90 million isn't it?

Let's take the £50 million increase for the Housing Executive. The largest share of this, £30 million, is not going to Executive housing, but as grants for private home improvements.

But, as Shelter point out, most of the £50 million will, in fact, be raised from the new year rent increases, from the EEC, and from funds presently in the Executive kitty. Shelter reckons the Executive will be handing back to the Treasury, at the end of the financial year, at least £30 million, accumulated from sales to sitting tenants.

They also point out that, on the Executive's own estimate, 5000 new homes need to be built this year, and for the next ten. The 'Prior Package' provides for only 4,500 new starts - and for only one year. Shelter's own estimate is 10,000 each year.

MUSIC REVIEW

- POISON GIRLS
- HUMAN LEAGUE
- ORCHESTRAL MANOEUVRES...

POISON GIRLS, an anarchist band based in London, really wanted to play in the A Centre in Belfast. It took a great deal of effort on their part especially to play only 3 gigs, one in Dublin, and 2 in Belfast.

People paid £2 a go to see the film and slides as well and on Saturday the DEFECTS and JUST DESTINY, and on Sunday, STALAG 17 and DOGMATIC ELEMENT, both supporting Poison Girls. In the Centre you had a chance to sit and relax, talk, drink coffee and dance.

The admission charge covered the high transportation costs, hire of the P.A., a mere £30 for Poison Girls' appearance, with £10 for each of the local bands.

Unlike the Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark & the Human League, where for £5 you were treated like shit and made to stand like fucking sardines, passively watching 'the stars' do their thing (under the watchful eye of the cops), Poison Girls made a point of getting the feel of Belfast for a few days during their stay and to talk to as many people as they could. Not so the H.L. or O.M.D., who flew in to do the gig and fucked off with money in their wallets. And we're made to feel grateful that they came to play in this war-torn city !

OK, a lot of people think that their music is great, but was their live performance that much better than listening to your stereo ? Basically, their live performances didn't add much to the music (except the screams of adulation when they played their hits).

The A Centre, local groups and Poison Girls' energies in creating simple stage props and agit-prop conveyed more meaning and impact to the performances.

Despite thousands of pounds spent on installing huge arrays of lights, 16 slide projectors showing meaningless images (perfectly synched to Human League's music which ruled out any spontaneity) and two '50's-type go-go dancers (complete with mini skirts), it did little to compensate for boring static musicians. Poison Girls' stage presence was based on their driving, abrupt, explosive music, biting lyrics, and the belief that here were people who lived and played anarchically.

The days events turned into a party for most people, and, if you knew the words to 'Anarchy in the UK', you could become one of the dozen chorus people on stage, backed by the Supergroup '17 DEFECTS' (an amalgam of Stalag 17 and the Defects).

Sold with Outta Control

January 1982 Issue No.11
Price 10p (outside Ireland 20p)

PRODUCED INDEPENDENTLY BY ANARCHA-FEMINISTS

Gaining Ground

Anarcha-Feminist News



The right to vote, or equal civil rights, may be good demands, but true emancipation begins neither at the polls, nor in the courts. It begins in women's soul. History tells us that every oppressed class gained true liberation from its masters through its own efforts. It is necessary that woman learn that lesson, that she realise that her freedom will reach as far as her power to achieve freedom reaches.

EMMA GOLDMAN 1911

....found in NIO dustbins..

The whole saga of Kincora Boys Home has now been dragging on in the public eye for the last two months, though it appears to have been in the less public eye of the police, and the Northern Ireland Office, and various government departments for a great deal longer as much as 15 years in some cases. Despite the fact that many of the young men who had been in Kincora, over the last ten years had complained to various groups of sexual abuse and mistreatment while in Kincora, and also in other homes in the area, the authorities consistently ignored and hushed up complaints, while more boys were subjected to the same treatment. In fact it took the suicide of one former inmate before anything was done. Why did it go on so long?

When finally the police took action and charged three of the wardens with several sexual offences, they all pleaded guilty and so none was cross examined in court - this meant that very little information was available. What became clear though was that the systematic sexual abuse of minors had taken place at Kincora and other boys homes in Belfast for a long time, and that the three wardens couldn't possibly have been the only ones involved, and that in fact young boys were being used for financial gains, sold to a whole wide circle of individuals without their consent, for the purposes of sexual abuse. In 1975 the police had been quick to terrorise the local gay community, on the flimsiest of charges, bringing misery to many innocent individuals, causing trouble in their work and with their families. In this situation of persistent child abuse they were very reticent to do anything, when the evidence was colossal and irrefutable. The answer lay in the composition of the individuals who availed of the 'services' provided by Kincora, for they included members of the security forces,

the senior civil service, and the business community. One of the victims has said, "it was pointless going to the police, as Mains (the chief warden in Kincora) was known to have friends there." Social workers who complained also finally came to the conclusion that a coverup was going on, for their repeated efforts to have the homes scrutinised came to nothing.

The local press have had a field day with the case it has given them more column inches than they have had in a long time.

All have been at pains to point out the homosexual nature of the sexual abuse at Kincora, and the whole issue is clearly going to be used as an excuse not to extend the Homosexual Reform Bill to Northern Ireland. In most reports that we have read you simply could substitute the word sickening pervert for homosexual, and there is the clear implication in most that homosexuals are people not in control of themselves, ready to prey on children given the opportunity, people we need protection from. What all this anti-gay hysteria though is doing is simply hiding the real facts of the case, that it doesn't matter what the sexual preference of the people involved were, what they did was to use children, to exploit children, who they had power over, children who had no comeback.

Rape is rape no matter who does it - in all cases it is the subjugation of the powerless, an act of contempt, and of control. What Kincora should clearly show is that children have few rights in particular those who find themselves in care, placed in institutions often in cramped conditions, they are vulnerable to the control of those in charge, and as Kincora illustrates, it is the child's testimony that holds the least weight. In would have served the papers better to have made that point that children need protection not from gays, but from those who seek to abuse them, and they cannot be identified by their sexual preferences. In point-of fact heterosexual child abuse is far more widespread as cases like the Noreen Winchester affair show.

FARE RISE?

Sometime soon the bus fares in Belfast are going to rise again by 15%! This is after two previous rises in 1980. At the rate they are going it will soon be cheaper to hire a private taxi than to go by bus. At present it costs 35p minimum for a bus journey, soon it will be 40p. This will make Belfast the most expensive public transport system in Britain or Ireland. (Manchester the most expensive in Britain is 30p.) This is on top of the fact that we already earn less and pay more generally for all our living requirements.

Of course as well as the fares rise there will also be a cutback in services particularly in the evening as Weiner Heubeck is planning to layoff 142 busworkers in the coming year. Basically what it boils to is that very soon Belfast will no longer have a public transport system because the service will be so bad and so expensive that people will be forced to stay at home, or find their own means. Forced by the constant withdrawal of services and one that ended early in the evening, the Falls Rd started its own people's taxi service which rapidly became the main means of travelling up and down the Falls, and in West Belfast generally as the Shankill Rd taxi service followed the example of the Falls Rd Taxi Association, providing a good, cheap, and frequent system for the people. And although there have been numerous complaints about being crushed to death in the backseat - without doubt the taxis have run, in all conditions for many years now. People in other areas have not been so fortunate, lacking either the resources to provide taxis, or being too small to provide such a service, they have to use the bus service or walk - not a pleasant prospect in Belfast at night.

Those who have cars are now using them more frequently, and so these days Belfast is beginning to look like one continuous carpark - turn any corner, any waste ground, and hey presto National Carparks have moved in with cheap tarmac and a kiosk, and astronomical prices. Consequently the

cont.back page

RAPE SUPPLEMENT INSIDE



Over the last ten years in particular, there has been an increase in the number, availability and amount of drugs given to women during their pregnancy and childbirth. The effects of induction both in the Royal during their experiments in the middle seventies and in the Erne hospital have been made known. Less attention, however, has been paid to how drugs work and what effect they have on the baby and the mother.

Before, during and after the birth, a baby is vulnerable to drugs and chemicals. Drugs, usually toxic, taken by the mother, cross the placenta easily and lodge in the foetus' brain and central nervous system. All functions of the foetus are immature. The liver cannot transform these drugs and chemicals into non toxic compounds

efficiently nor can the kidney's excrete them readily.

Studies of healthy full term babies who came from risk free pregnancies and whose deliveries were normal and uneventful have shown that drugs affect behaviour adversely, and that these effects do not go away as the baby gets older (there are no consistent sex or class differences).

None of the studies have shown that drugs used during childbirth improved normal functioning. Behavioural changes are related to the dose and potency of the drug. Narcotics like pethidine, for example, are commonly used and may be given in doses 2 to 4 times higher than recommended. All narcotics have a serious depressant effect on foetal breathing and response. Drugs can affect change in feeding, sucking, resting, emotional behaviour, stimulation, tolerance, language heart rate, responsiveness, co-ordination, reflexes, ability to shut down and to be comforted.

Most drugs used during childbirth have never been approved for the purpose of childbirth on any grounds. They have not been assessed in relation to the effects on the central nervous system and future behaviour. Mothers and babies are being experimented on: they are not given the information on the drugs that they are taking nor are they told of alternative methods that are available—natural childbirth, hypnosis, acupuncture or no

treatment. There is no information given on the compensation and medical treatment a woman may expect if such experiments go wrong. Witness the case of a Belfast woman who was paralysed after an epidural which was not administered properly, or the many women who were unaware that they were guinea pigs for experiments on induction at the Royal.

Academics and scientists doing these experiments must support their theories with hard facts and statistics on a publish or perish make a name for yourself basis, regardless of the damage they may be causing women and their babies.



What's your Poison?

POISON GIRLS came over to play two performances in the A Centre in Belfast the weekend of 19th-20th December in what proved to be a weekend to remember! The amazing and vital lead singer, Vi Subversa, is also the one who writes all the songs, on nuclear power, abortion, sex, war, mental illness, housework, just about every subject and the other woman in Poison Girls, is Gwyn, who does the slide shows and visual presentation.

"Bombing cities, washing dishes, we won't do your dirty work, Mind control for leisure living, madness rules your dirty world, Bombing cities, pulling switches, we don't want your dirty dream Clever Dick atomic splitting—screw your dirty dream. (Dirty Work, Poison Girls).





The Art of Starvation

Recently, I heard someone commenting favourably on the cover of Sheila MacLeod's "The Art of Starvation". It could be argued that they were looking at the most stimulating part of the book, the imaginative picture "Reaching", which says more to me about the subject than the one hundred and eighty three pages in the book. The author is allegedly writing about the controversial disease "Anorexia Nervosa", but I often got the impression I was intruding on the inner meanderings of an Oxford graduate.

She begins by attempting a history of the disease, putting forward some interesting if far fetched notions that female hysterics and witches down the ages may have been anorexic but lends credibility to her arguments by viewing the disease as 'a protest against the narrowness of social roles'.

As her own story unfolds however, it becomes less clear just which arguments ARE hers as she draws heavily on established psychological theories. The pages are, I am tempted to say "besmirched" with quotations ranging from the verbose Freud to Sylvia Plath who in fact inspired the title of the book with her words "Dying is an Art"

Sheila MacLeod's account of her own life and illness, based on diaries, is told honestly and does give an insight into the mind and feelings of a sensitive, perhaps hypersensitive young woman growing up on an oppressive Scottish island, who then has the misfortune to attend both a convent school and a girls' public boarding school. She describes how she felt painfully inferior and inadequate beside her school mates in both these institutions.

The isolation and loneliness that engulf an anorexic come across strongly and perhaps the most moving part is the description of the author's first tentative bite in the presence of her mother. All this however is marred by the constant insistence on psychological interpretations to comment on each phase of the author's life.

Alongside this, Sheila MacLeod also looks at anorexia from the social and environmental points of view which make more interesting reading. She believes that the traditionally assigned role of women plays a large part in the genesis of anorexia and indeed of many of the problems women, especially at adolescence, experience today. She writes scathingly of a society where women "are granted more or less equal opportunities in theory, but in practice and through series of pressures, denied the right to fulfill them".

The chapter entitled "Depression" is a perceptive account of the bleak view of life which a despairing woman has. This is to me the most positive contribution which Sheila MacLeod makes towards an understanding of women's emotions. She uses the image of viewing life "through a sheet of glass" and I am sure that many readers, regardless of their sex, age or weight could identify with the feelings described here.

After an account of her recovery which deals with the various types of therapy used for anorexia, from individual and family "psychotherapy" to the frightening electro-convulsive therapy (electroshock) the writer devotes a whole chapter to Peter Dully's criteria for establishing whether or not an anorexic is/can be cured. This again would perhaps be gripping enough for a psychology student, but I often found it obscure and irrelevant.

Some revealing statistics about anorexia do emerge from the text, among them that at present one in every two hundred young women in Britain is suffering from the illness and that it is no longer confined to the middle classes, nor to women in their teens—there is a case of a 52 year old woman suddenly becoming anorexic; however, out of one hundred patients treated by Hilde Bruch, who has also written on the subject, only fourteen were male.

Anorexia nervosa is then predominantly a woman's disease and a lot of what Sheila MacLeod writes helps to suggest how anorexia may come about, but I disagree with one critic who describes the book as "basic reading for anyone interested in anorexia"; the psychological slant makes it heavy going and I find the £2.95 which Virago Press are asking a bit steep.

Margaret's Story

"I am a married woman with six children; I am 30 years old. When I left school at 15, I worked in a flax mill until I was 20 when I contracted Flax Bysinosis (shortness of breath). Since then I have been working as a market trader and it was all open air markets and I stood at my pitch all day summer and winter for 8 years trying to make a living as my husband was only earning £40 a week.

Two years ago I became badly run down and then suffered severe depression. I cannot go outside and I am afraid to stay in the house myself. My weight went from 9st to 7st 8lbs. Last November I took jaundice and as well as that I found out I was pregnant. I lost my baby in March this year."

Margaret applied for Housewives Non-Contributory Invalidity Pension but was told that a lot of enquiries would have to be made. Invalid Care Allowance and Non Contributory Pension are two benefits available to the chronically sick and to those who care for them. Married women are barred from the Care Allowance and have to undergo a special test to get the Invalidity Pension. Whereas a chronically sick or disabled man is automatically entitled to a Non Contributory Pension if he does not have enough stamps (and single women), a married woman must apply for something called "Housewives Non-Contributory Invalidity Pension". To get it she must not only prove herself incapable of paid employment but also incapable of "normal household duties". There is a test which involves a complicated and embarrassing questionnaire, a medical and the judgement of an Insurance Officer. Even then, married women are refused. The EOC is campaigning to have these discriminatory regulations changed. For further information, please contact Maeve Bell, Belfast 42752.

MEETINGS

ABORTION CAMPAIGN MEETING — Wednesday February 3rd at 7.30pm in the Women's Centre, 16-18 Donegall Street, Belfast.

UNITY MEETING— Saturday 6th February in the Women's Centre at 11.00am. Discussion on International Women's Day and events planned. Discussion on Rape as well and the recent events.

Betty Sinclair died recently. She was well known for her work in the Labour Movement and as one of the leaders of the Unemployed Movement when she was still a mill girl. A memorial library is to be set up for trade unionists in recognition of the work she had done for the working classes.

THE YEAR OF THE HATCHET

January

Peter Sutcliffe is arrested and charged with the murders of 13 women, known as the Yorkshire Ripper murders. Americans "embassy staff" in Iran released. A racist fire attack on a house in Deptford kills many young people attending a party.

February

President Reagan survives! A loyalist gang seriously injures Bernadette McAliskey and her husband in an assassination attempt.

March

Bobby Sands commences a hunger strike to the death to gain the five demands from the British Government: no prison uniform, no prison work, no loss of remission, educational facilities and free association. He is joined on hunger strike later by Francis Hughes, Raymond McCreesh and Patsy O'Hara. Mass

Mass burnings of forms takes place in Northern Ireland as a protest against the 1981 census.

Attempted coup by Guardia Civil in Spain.

International Women's Day—with a rally in Cormanmarket and also a conference on the role of women in the H Block and Armagh Campaign. Picket on Armagh prison took place on Sunday 9th March with international support.

Big happy Concert with Peggy Seeger in the evening.

Paisley kicks off on the Carson Trail.

April

Bobby Sands is elected as the M.P. for Fermanagh/South Tyrone....the fifth largest vote received by M.P.s to Westminster during this government

11th/12th The Brixton Uprising—youth on Brixton take to the streets in a spontaneous reaction against oppressive police tactics

May

Bobby Sands died on May 6th after 66 days on hunger strike. One week later on the 12th, his comrade Francis Hughes dies after 59 days. Both Raymond McCr. and Patsy O'Hara died on their 60th day of hunger strike on May 21st.

Tens of thousands attend the funerals to show support for the five demands. Heavy rioting breaks out. Indiscriminate use of plastic bullets by the security forces cause the deaths of Julie Livingstone, aged 14, Carol Ann Kelly aged 12 and Henry Duffy aged 45 years. (During 1981 seven people died as a result of attacks by the security forces, many others were maimed and wounded).

1 PLASTIC BULLET WAS FIRED EVERY THREE MINUTES IN THE MONTH OF MAY.

Billy Jean King is sued by her former lover Marilyn Barnett for half her 1973-79 earnings.

Elections in the Republic: Kieran Doherty on hunger strike and Paddy Agnew, former prisoner are elected T.D.s. Mairead Farrell, imprisoned in Armagh Jail received 3,514 votes in Cork. Liz

Noonan contested the election as a lesbian feminist.

June

The Toxteth riots—C.S.Gas used. Blank shots fired at the Queen of England and the young cadet promptly put in a mental institution.

RUC Constable McKeown stands trial accused of the murder of 16 year old Michael McCartan, the first time a policeman has been brought to court for a crime committed whilst on duty. He is found not guilty.

On 30th Malone Place hospital, the last small maternity unit in Belfast was closed.

On 8th., Thomas McLewee commences Hunger Strike.

On 10th., eight Republican prisoners on remand escape from Crumlin Road jail. 22nd., Micky Devine joins Hunger Strike. 29th., Lawrence McKeown joins Hunger Strike.

July

2nd., Paisley organised a "show of strength" in Six-Mile-Cross.

8th., Joe McDonnell dies after a Hunger Strike of 61 days.

13th., Martin Hurson dies after 45 days on Hunger Strike.

18th., The British Embassy Riot - many people were injured when Gardai baton-charged H-Block marchers trying to reach the British Embassy in Dublin.

August

1st., Kevin Lynch died on the 71st day of Hunger Strike.

2nd., Kieran Doherty died on Hunger Strike.

3rd., an international tribunal calls for a ban on the use of plastic bullets.

Liam McCloskey joins Hunger Strike.

8th., Thomas McLewee died after 62 days on Hunger Strike

17th., Jackie McMullen joined the Hunger Strike.

20th., Micky Devine died on the 60th day of his Hunger Strike.

21st., Owen Carron was elected M.P. for Fermanagh/South Tyrone.

24th., Bernard Fox joined Hunger Strike.

31st., Gerry Carville joined the Hunger Strike.

September

5th., Carl Harp, an anarchist prisoner, is murdered in Walla Walla prison in Washington, USA.

7th., John Pickering joins Hunger Strike.

14th., James Prior takes up the post of Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, replacing Humphrey Atkins.

Gerry Hodgins joined the Hunger Strike.

18th., The Littlejohn brothers are released from Mountjoy prison on "humanitarian grounds."

21st., Jim Devine joined the Hunger Strike

October

3rd., H-Block prisoners end their Hunger Strike, after relatives state their intention

to intervene and sanction medical treatment.

10th., Two women civilians were killed in an IRA bomb attack on a coachload of Irish Guards in London

26th., two IRA bombs go off in Oxford St., London, killing a police bomb expert in one of them.

29th., *Women from N.I. Abortion Campaign went to London to present M.P. Jo Richardson with 6 coat-hangers with mock airline tickets, to highlight the plight of women seeking abortions in N.I. A coat-hanger and ticket was sent to each M.P.*

November

14th., Roy Bradford, Official Unionist MP for South Belfast is shot dead by the IRA. 20th., A half-day strike was called by Loyalists as a protest against lack of action against the IRA. Paisley's "Third Force" marched in Newtownards.

December

1st., *The inquest at Hillsborough court-house on the deaths of the Hunger Strikers returned verdicts of "self-imposed starvation".*

11th., *Loyalists in the Crumlin Road jail wrecked the wing and staged a roof-top protest against conditions in the prison.*

cont. from front page
streets and roads of Belfast become increasingly congested especially in the rush hour-raising accident rates, and the pollution of our air with car fumes.

The same thing was happening in London until the new Labour Greater London Council decides to massively subsidise the buses and tubes to bring fares down and encourage people to use public transport and to leave their cars at home. But as we all heard the law finally decided that the GLC couldn't subsidise transport from the rates. The priorities are clear (even though the numbers using public transport rose by thousands!) those without money or cars would simply have to make do or walk. You simply couldn't ask people with property (and the rates are levied according to property values) to subsidise those with less because nine times out of ten those with most property are those with cars and also those who can most easily escape the fumes and pollution that they leave behind as they trip back to suburbia at the end of the day.

In Belfast the situation is the same - no subsidies. But even without subsidies the bus service here could be much better - if the money they had was used a bit more efficiently, and where it is needed - on better service, and good wages for the workers. Instead though the Heubeck's of this world have got their priorities straight - while announcing the fares increase, they also slipped in a few days later their plans to spend a great deal of money on a new project - a facelift for Glengall St station! Because after all you wouldn't want all the tourists arriving from the airport and going around to the Europa Hotel, to think that Belfast only had dingy bus stations. At the rate things are going it may end up the only service that Heubeck will be running - so he does have to make the best of it!

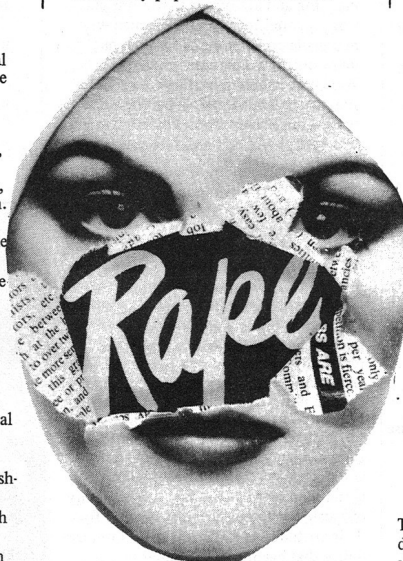
This month, four men appeared in a Belfast Crown Court charged with rape and other offences against two women. Discussion of the trial itself, observation of the proceedings of the court, and concern about the implications of wider issues, plus legal precedents already set, have led us to compile this supplement to GAINING GROUND

WHAT IS RAPE?

The Judge, in his remarks to the jury in the Belfast Trial, defined rape as having occurred if a man inserted his penis into the vagina of a woman without her consent, or if he was 'reckless' as to the question of her consent. Indeed, the legal definition is "unlawful sexual intercourse without a woman's consent". It is probably because of this definition, and the wording used, that rape is largely considered to be a lustful and sexual act, rather than a VIOLENT one. In fact, rape is almost entirely an act of violence, and is rarely used for sexual gratification. The Belfast Trial established that the male attackers knew something about the two women and knew where they lived. In short, the rape was planned in advance this is so in over 65% of reported cases. That the men were hostile towards the women was also clear. Questions were asked, prior to rape, about the religious faith of the victims, about their backgrounds and reasons for living in Belfast. This was NOT the gratification of "animal passions", but a deliberate act designed to humiliate and terrorise. What adds credence to this conclusion is the established fact that one woman was hit over the head with a pistol whilst halfway through a forced recital of 'The Lord's Prayer'. The Catholic version differs slightly from the Protestant one. This recital was to establish whether or not the woman was a Catholic. She was accused of being a Fenian (ie: Catholic or 'Taig') and her friend was accused of harbouring a 'taig' in her flat. That four men were involved, most of whom had paramilitary connections, also reminds us that 'gang rape' is used as a weapon of terror, is used to express contempt for women, to bolster the very 'maleness' of the military and the logic of command, is used by the impotent or sexually repressed male to establish a false virility in the eyes of his peers, and is used as a reclamation of property or territory and as a defilement and conquering of an enemy's status or morale.

There is, to some degree, a relationship between alcoholism and rape. In one American study of convicted rapists, 35% were alcoholic and 50% had been drinking before the attack. It was established that the Belfast rapists had been drinking quite heavily beforehand. The adverts tell men that a certain beer is "what your right arm's for": significantly enough, the figure holding the glass is not a woman. Until men begin to define their own needs until female needs and female sexuality are defined on their OWN terms and not in relation to men, or as passive objects of men's desires, then the myths surrounding rape, and the social acceptance of this violent act, will prevail. There is a myth that only the young and the beautiful women are potential rape victims. Children

as young as six months and women as old as ninety three years have been raped—victims have been of all ages, races, life styles, marital status or sexual orientation. Rapists are often portrayed as sex-maniacs in the grip of uncontrollable 'animal' urges. In fact most rapes are planned in advance, most victims are known to the attacker, are sometimes within the same family, and rapists in prison are considered amongst the most 'normal' of the population, giving fire to the male imagination about sexual violence which is portrayed in so many popular films and books.



GAINING GROUND SUPPLEMENT

It was clear from the attitudes of women supporters of the four men on trial in Belfast, and from the Defence Counsel, that there was some social acceptance of the rapes that had taken place. Defence Counsel was heard to say at one point: "here were four men simply out to enjoy themselves, out for a good time."

Conveniently overlooking all aspects of female sexuality and, again, seeing women as mere objects for male gratification of power, dominance and lust. Defence Counsel tried to establish as relevant the fact that the two women had also been drinking that night, as if this was then meant that they were drunk and therefore inviting rape or 'fair game' for any man. In other cases, women have been accused of 'contributory negligence' by their dress and behaviour, and therefore in some sense responsible for what happens to them.

All in a society which pressurises women to make themselves attractive to men, which glorifies the "little woman" image, which uses images of women to sell goods, to titillate men's fantasies about women, to sell newspapers and to keep women

firmly in their place: ie: secondary to and in contrast to men.

It would seem that you cannot be defined as a 'victim' unless you are locked up at home, in male company, and 'decently' dressed. In Ireland, where the teachings of the churches influences much social thinking, it is difficult for women to be seen as other than two extremes: pure virgin or temptress, daughter of Eve.

Clearly women supporters of the Belfast rapists looked on their two victims as 'loose women', one an unmarried mother, living alone in a flat, drinking in their own company, walking home unaccompanied by men—"fair game" for anyone who wished to take advantage of their situation, isolation and social standing. They did not conform to the self censorship that women are expected to practice, whilst at the same time making themselves available for the expression of male dominance. It is also possible that feelings of possessive jealousy were aroused in women friends and relatives of the rapists, who saw their own relationships with the men threatened—some anger may have been generated by repressed feelings of guilt and confusion concerning their own roles. These same women were also hostile and threatening towards other members of the public who were seen as being supportive of the two women victims—members of women's groups were questioned as to their motives in attending the trial, and were jeered and verbally abused and threatened as a result of their cautious attitudes.

MEN RAPE—WOMEN ARE BLAMED

The comments by Judge Bertrand Richards, during the trial of rapist John Allen, demonstrate how society condones violence against women. The Judge told the court that the 17 year old woman was 'guilty of contributory negligence' because she was hitchhiking alone at night. Consequently, the rapist was fined £2,000 and did not receive the usual prison sentence of 2—4 years. This ruling implies that any woman hitchhiking alone is asking to be assaulted. The misogynist, patriarchal assumptions that women desire to be raped and that any woman alone is fair game for a rapist have been enforced in law. A legal precedent has been set. Society's prejudicial attitude towards women is most clearly shown at rape trials. The victim is forced to recount the painful details of violent physical and mental assault under hostile cross-examination in an atmosphere of disbelief. Because of the assumption that women invite rape, it is always the character and credibility of the victim which is on trial, not the rapist.

Protests have been made to the Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham, about Judge Richards' comments and the imposition of a fine instead of imprisonment. However, an examination of Hailsham's own comments on rape cases, and remarks by his 'brother' judges, indicate that Richards' attitude is more or less in line with most judicial thinking on the subject of rape. In 1975, during a rape case appeal, Sir Harold Cassell, QC, came up with the dangerous notion that women might resist sexual violence or so the man might think in order to give him 'the additional thrill of the struggle'. Hailsham then took this

idea a stage further in a way which was supposedly out of context: "If he believes the woman is consenting to rough treatment because she likes it, I agree with it would not be rape". What a woman wants and what she consents to are two different things. Later, Hailsham decided: "It is possible for a man to be acquitted of rape, if he held the idea, no matter how unreasonably, that the woman he was raping was consenting".

These absurd, dangerous ideas are an intrinsic part of patriarchal society. It appears that the fact that we are women out alone, given the myriad false assumptions about our sexuality, is sufficient, in society's eyes, to justify violent assault. If a bank cashier is attacked and robbed no-one would put forward the ludicrous suggestion that the cashier was 'guilty' of contributory negligence or was asking to be robbed, by being in that place at that time or by simply being a cashier! The press went to great lengths to dig up from retirement the reactionary Melford Stevenson. His comments on Richards decision: "It is the height of impudence for any girl to hitchhike at night. She is, in the true sense, asking for it".

Recently, two young women were raped in Sunderland and an elderly woman organist was raped and murdered in Bushmills. Presumably, in the eyes of the law, they were also 'asking for it' and guilty of 'contributory negligence' because they were women who had the temerity to be alone at night.

THE BELFAST TRIAL

Every court that I have attended has appeared to me to be a gruesome kind of theatre, with all the participants meekly accepting the roles apportioned to them, whilst also accepting, without question, the authority of a court to make powerful decisions regarding people's lives and to make statements which set precedents for the future wielding of that power and authority.

The recent Belfast trial contained all those elements, but also takes the 'gruesome theatre' analogy further on to more disturbing ground, in that in the present context and past context of sectarian and political conflict, it is clear that a theatre of terror also existed. The two women victims faced a male dominated jury (that had only two women members), were subject to question and cross examination by men and were subject to the intimidating presence of the four male attackers, flanked by male guards from the prison service and the RUC. In the public gallery, large groups of male friends of the accused sat in a kind of stoney glare, whilst women relatives, clearly hostile to the two women victims, further contributed to the intimidating atmosphere. Then, in a court held to test the innocence of the four men, the women themselves are put on trial by men whose attitudes to women were clearly ones of superiority and oppression.

Remarks were made concerning the drinking habits and lifestyles of the two women, and they were closely questioned about their resistance to the attacks. Although the women made it quite clear

that they were terrorised into submission, Defence Counsel persisted in asking why no more of a fight had been made—conveniently leaving aside the fact that the four men had entered the flat by force and had planned in advance the sexual abuse of the two women. Kevin Finnegan the Defence Counsel, is a member of the Socialist Lawyers Group. One wonders as to his motives in taking the case, and as to why there appears to be no policy regarding the nature of the cases that this Group will accept. As women, we find it insulting and abhorrent that Finnegan was prepared to defend UDA men who had made confessions as to some of their involvement in this case. Finnegan is known as a shrewd barrister, who has in the past defended people on dope charges with some effectiveness. His motives in this case puzzle and anger us.

Threatened at gunpoint, women are still expected to do the impossible, to make dangerous attempts at resistance and to establish that 'No' means 'No'. Here were two women, in a state of terror and shock out numbered by men. Discrepancies are picked at, between written statements taken shortly after the attack, and what was then being said in court, sixteen months later. It is not surprising that two terrified women, threatened, abused and intimidated by men, subject to medical and judicial examinations, undoubtedly sedated by prescribed drugs, living through the trauma yet again, coming from a society of sexual, social and political domination, then thrust into a male dominated courtroom, did have difficulty of recall and theoretical justification for their attitudes—a difficulty and an impossibility that again was not raised on their behalf and which they were in no position to raise for themselves.

This case also contained certain factors which are unique to Northern Ireland, and which are surrounded by rumour, innuendo and threat. One of the rapists was a Commander in the Ulster Defence Association (the loyalist paramilitary organisation), a section of which had an alleged policy of raping Catholic women. Even if this were not true, such rumour only increases sectarianism, clouds the issue and increases the threat of sectarian violence.

The attacks coming as they did during a period of sectarian campaigns, could well have been an extension of the pattern of sectarian murders, or planned as such—all related to ritual killing. The four men had a gun—one does not carry a gun around Belfast unless one intends to use it. Did the men pick up the gun elsewhere, in preparation? There is a strong possibility that had not the police arrived when they did (having seen suspicious movements at a window) that both women would have been raped and murdered. In fact, one man was heard to say "why hurry, we've got all night". Some loyalist sectarian torture and violation of murder victims, the hacking to pieces of bodies, slitting of throats, are seen as an 'exorcising of the devil'; an extension of religious beliefs, concepts of demonology and of the fear and hatred of 'popery'. Could the rapes have been planned as a prelude to this?

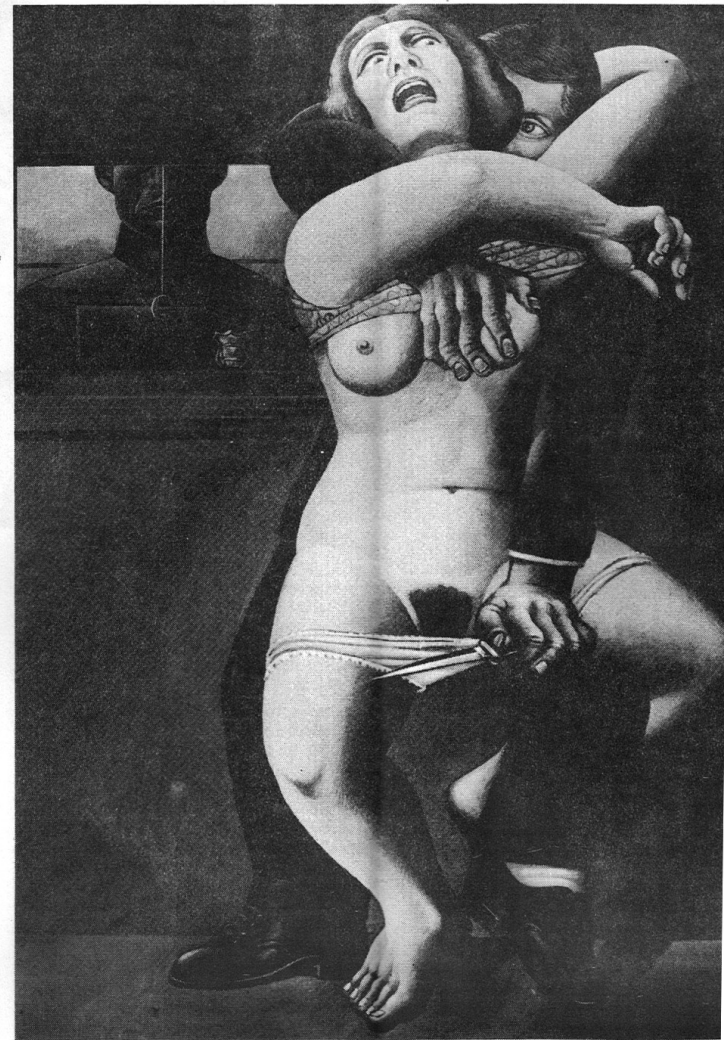
That the two women were terrorised is beyond doubt, and their behaviour in court indicated their continuing fear.

There was a considerable relief in the Shankill (a protestant area, where the two women lived) that the case had come to court. Violent crimes against working people and rape are not uncommon. Many cases go unreported, and the courage it took to bring this particular case to court cannot be over emphasised.

Both victims were questioned by the men as to their names, backgrounds and religious faith. Public support of the two victims was made difficult by this atmosphere of threat and physical violence. Women supporters of the rapists were heard to say that they "would get with crowbars" any picket that formed outside the court. All of which angered and frustrated feminists

who wished to declare their private and public support, but who found themselves defenceless and unprepared.

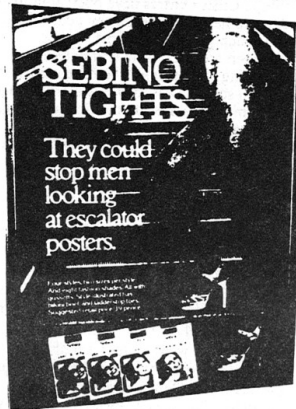
The whole trial seemed to reflect a game, a deadly game, in the course of which neither the women's movement, nor the two women victims seem likely to achieve any understanding or a furtherance of their own interests. Observation and analysis of the proceedings need to be linked to vigorous political campaigns against all forms of the oppression of women (from porn films to books and sex education) both here in Northern Ireland and elsewhere. Our two sisters, isolated in a court under threat, have shown a courage and a solidarity of purpose that has touched an inspired all feminist observers. Their lives will be permanently affected by the even of one night sixteen months ago, and by the ordeal of their trial-within-a-trial in a



There is a second assumption that a woman is necessarily ready for, and inviting, heterosexual and submissive sex, or that she is always in the process of preparing herself for it. The question was "why not, are you queer?" and was NOT an attempt to understand the woman's physical or emotional state, to relate to her in anything more than an oppressive manner, or to understand her desires and needs, her willingness or otherwise, to accept a passive and traditional role. It is known that female arousal and orgasm are not necessary in the process of reproduction, and that women's sexuality is no longer interpreted simply in terms of being able to conceive and to give birth. Vaginal penetration is not a necessary ingredient of a woman's capacity to express or enjoy her sexuality, even though some women do find the vagina is an erogenous area. Frigid is another word applied to a woman who is not content to prepare herself for or to practice on demand, that which is pleasurable for a man, or who cannot reach orgasm in five minutes in the missionary position. Some people still believe that a woman is capable only of responding to male initiatives, and yet maintain she is responsible for arousing "irrepressible" sexual desire in the male! A recent rape trial in America, however, did consider the sexuality of the victim, and questions

were raised about the sensitivity (lack of) shown by the rapist and of his understanding of female sexuality. So, some progress has been made regarding the nature of legal proceedings.

Women are encouraged by various forms of authority and persuasion to develop their reproductive powers, to attend to their 'maternal' instincts, to perfect their



'femininity'. At the same time they are expected to repress their natural sexual feelings and to cultivate a submissive nature. In sex education, sex is supposed to be good, healthy and necessary for boys, to be enjoyed by boys, but not by girls—all traditional heterosexual sex, of course. What further makes difficulties for women and others who resist all traditional notions of sexuality, are those lack of opportunities for and the inhibitions about discussing sex and our sexual feelings about another person. Women's groups do much to resolve these difficulties, plus an honesty of approach with a partner.

THE FIGHT AGAINST RAPE

*In Karachi, Pakistan, in 1978, when an 8 year old girl was raped, children went on the rampage through the city causing havoc.

*In Soweto, South Africa, in 1977, when a teacher was raped, the schoolgirls in her class stoned the rapist to death.

*In July, 1977, a rally organised by Women Against Rape in Trafalgar Square, London sentenced 3 High Court Judges and 5 Government Ministers to fines totalling £30billion after a 'trial' found them guilty of rape and trespass 'over our minds and bodies' by their treatment of women. One woman who testified was the victim of an attack by a Guardsman, whose release by 3 Appeal Court Judges caused a nationwide controversy.

*The first Reclaim the Night in London was in November 1977, the second in July 1978. Similar demonstrations were made in Dublin. They were demonstrations of women to reclaim the night, the streets, the outside world, space for women. the right to be out at any time, retrieving our bodies in areas of commercial sexism such as Soho.

*In Belfast again, women demonstrated through the streets after a woman was raped in the University area, and again after an attack in Turf Lodge.

*Throughout the world, women have organised demonstrations and direct action against repressive judgements in law, sex shops, sexism in advertising, against 'sex and violence' films, porn cinemas, to publicise violence against women and the institutions that perpetuate or encourage such violence and oppressive attitudes towards women.

*Rape Crisis Centres have opened in many areas to help rape victims by counselling and much practical support.

*Women are organising themselves and attending classes in self defence, and even though such classes may not offer enough to women who are too old or too young, or too small or who have a disability which could prevent them from fighting back physically, such classes are a vital part of campaigns against rape.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE A RAPE VICTIM.

Make immediate contact with someone you know or with some individual or group that you know will be sympathetic. Resist the desire to remain alone or to try to deal with the trauma alone. You will undoubtedly want to take a bath or shower, but resist this also—the law requires medical evidence of rape, and you could wash it away or be seen as attempting to falsify the evidence. Telephone a Rape Crisis Centre, Womens Centre or your nearest Womens Group (find out where they are now). There will be women there willing and able to be responsive to your needs, to be understanding and caring, and to give support and practical advice. Report the rape to the police as soon as possible. A friend or member of a women's group will stay with you for as long as necessary. Your behaviour and appearance soon after the rape will be vital—the police need to make observations about these in order to strengthen their case and to build up "corroborating evidence". Rapes are rarely witnessed, so all evidence such as your distress and shock, torn or disarranged clothing, stains, injuries, evidence of forced penetration, are all vitally important.

You will be questioned by the police. Even though they will admit that resisting rapists can be dangerous, you may be faced with questions that assume that you "fight for your virtue" to impossible degrees. Remember that the test of the evidence comes in court, not in the police station, but that your behaviour and statements will be noted in the police station and such evidence given in court. It is not your innocence which is in question, but the rapists.

You will be examined by a doctor, and this can be an humiliating experience. You will be asked questions about whether or not you are on the Pill, if you have ever had an abortion, and so forth. Remember that your morality is not on trial.

Rape is a traumatic experience and it is important to have contact with understanding and supportive friends and counsellors to talk to about your feelings. Don't try to handle it alone. Some of your feelings anger, guilt, disgust, humiliation, fear, isolation, horror, anxiety, will be difficult and will need expression and will need re-

solving. Rape Crisis Centres and Womens Groups are there for you to use - to share your experiences and to meet your needs.

PREVENTING RAPE—SELF DEFENCE

Get yourself fit and know how to fight. This will help to build up your confidence—frightened women are more likely to be attacked than confident ones. Secure your home, make contact with neighbours and work out a signal or alarm to bring help. Give out blood curdling yells. These will boost your confidence and scare the attacker. Remember that ALL women are potential victims—young, old, disabled, infirm; no matter of what appearance, race or lifestyle. We cannot rely on the courts for our ultimate protection; at every opportunity we must point out the ways in which women are exploited and degraded by a society which defines women in terms of men, which uses them as sex objects, as helpless victims or as people who must "be kept in their place". Whilst our streets, our space, our bodies remain unclaimed, then rape, and the threat of rape, terrorises women and keeps us imprisoned.

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Whilst we, as anarcho-feminists, were pleased by the guilty verdicts returned in Belfast trial, and whilst we have supported and whilst we have supported such past judgements of rapists, we cannot ignore or fail to give adequate consideration of the question of what happens to, or what should happen to the convicted rapist.

There are, at present, a number of possibilities and suggestions, which include, a lengthy term of imprisonment, large fines, psychiatric treatment, castration, sterilisation, death penalty, financial compensation to victim or relations of victim. Others include the handing over of the rapist to the victim or relations/friends of the victim, for punishment, or to his immediate community/peers. We have, as anarcho-feminists, to express our dissatisfaction with most of these possibilities, and to acknowledge the fact that we cannot, as yet, offer a strong suggestion as to the question of punishment.

It is true that the law is a powerful political instrument. However, it is used not only as a means of oppression, but also, ideally, as a means of bringing rights to individuals and to support claims and to give protection to the poor, underprivileged, powerless and defenceless. The law can, at one and the same time, make us free and make us slaves. Present forms of punishment, cloaked in a token aura of "rehabilitation" often do no more than exercise crude revenge. Even present harsh penalties are no deterrent to acts of violence. As anarchists, we wish the concept and practice of law to be libertarian. Living in a society not of our design, nor under our control, where people look to the state for the outline of justice and to a third party for the settlement of disputes or for judgement, we find no way in which our own libertarian ideas can be "grafted on" to such institutions as now exist.

We have no desire to "cop out" of this

difficult issue by saying there needs to be revolution or a fundamental political change in society before such matters can be resolved. If we demand the judgement of rapists, we have also to be clear as to our demands concerning "punishment"—this is a subject which we hope that our group will continue to debate.

However.....

FEEDBACK, from you, the readers is essential. We need to know your thoughts and ideas concerning the WHOLE of this supplement, and to have more contact with you in future on all aspects of Gaining Ground. Send us your own experiences, thoughts, ideas, suggestions, information. If you would like a reply to anything you send, or if you want anything to be returned, then PLEASE try to enclose a stamped self addressed envelope. We do not have unlimited funds!

Write to us C/o Box 28, 7 Winetavern St., Belfast 1.

We also welcome photographs, drawings, letter, articles and need more information always about other contact groups and news of what is happening in your area.

REFERENCES: USEFUL READING

"Our Bodies Ourselves" by Angela Phillips and Jill Rakusen. Penguin £3.50
"Against Our Will", by Susan Brownmiller (Men, Women and Rape) Penguin 95p
"Half the Sky" (An introduction to Womens Studies) Virago £3.95.
"Spare Rib" (A woman's liberation magazine) 50p from Just Books or by subscription to 27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1R 0AT.
"Scarlet Woman". Newsletter of the Socialist Feminist Current of the Womens Liberation Movement, 5 Washington Tce., North Shields, Tyne and Wear.
Rape Crisis Centre, PO Box 1027, Dublin 6. Published reports. Phone 601470.
"No Turning Back". Writings from the Womens Liberation Movement 1975-80. The Womens Press £4.95.
"Women at WAR" Women against Rape, 60 Westbourne Park Villas, London W2. Tel: 01-221-5754. 150 Richmond Road, Montpelier, Bristol 6. Tel: 0272-422810. 19 City Road, Cambridge. Tel: 0223-5757142.
"Law in Anarchism". Ed. Thom Holterman & Henc van Maarseveen. Erasmus University, Rotterdam. £5.20.

CONTACTS IN BELFAST

The Women's Centre, 16-18 Donegall Street, Belfast 1. Tel: 0232-43663.
Anarcha Feminist Group/Gaining Ground, C/o Box 28, 7 Winetavern Street, Belfast.

OTHER CONTACTS TO BE CONSIDERED:-

Craigavon Women's Group, 502 Legahory Green, Craigavon.
Newry Women's Group, C/o Newry Resource Centre, Dublin Road, Newry.
Omagh Women's Group, C/o 34 High Street, Omagh.
Tullycarnet Women's Group, C/o Community Centre, Kinross Avenue, Tullycarnet, Tel: 7988.

DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE:
Tel Dublin 601470.